



**TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE
Tuesday, March 19, 2013**

**SB 1044, An Act Concerning The Connecticut Health And Educational
Facilities Authority**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 1044, An Act Concerning The Connecticut Health And Educational Facilities Authority**. CHA supports the bill.

Before expressing our support, it's important to detail the critical role hospitals play in the health and quality of life of our communities. Connecticut hospitals are more than facts and figures, and dollars and cents. Hospitals, at their core, are all about people. All of our lives have, in some way, been touched by a hospital: through the birth of a child, a life saved by prompt action in an emergency room, or the compassionate end-of-life care for someone we love. Or perhaps our son, daughter, husband, wife, or friend works for, or is a volunteer at, a Connecticut hospital.

Hospitals provide care to all people regardless of their ability to pay. Connecticut hospitals are the ultimate safety net providers, and their doors are always open.

Due to the continued faltering national economy, Connecticut hospitals, like many other not-for-profit institutions, are faced with challenges when seeking bonding for various capital projects to improve their facilities and patient care and quality. SB 1044 would allow the Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority to issue tax-exempt bonds for projects in contiguous states on behalf of healthcare obligate groups/systems based in Connecticut. The bill would also expand the permitted use of the Special Capital Reserve Fund, backed by a \$100 million pooled loan program, to include construction and renovation in addition to equipment. These changes will allow Connecticut hospitals to access bonding through the Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority, and ultimately improve the care and services provided to Connecticut residents.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

For additional information, contact CHA Government Relations at (203) 294-7310.