



**TESTIMONY OF  
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION  
SUBMITTED TO THE  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE  
Wednesday, February 27, 2013**

**HB 5445, An Act Concerning Certificates Of Need For PedCAT Imaging Equipment**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony concerning **HB 5445, An Act Concerning Certificates Of Need For PedCAT Imaging Equipment**. CHA opposes the bill.

Connecticut's Certificate of Need (CON) system is a transparent, public, and ordered safeguard on the use of scarce healthcare dollars for certain services. Connecticut's CON controls apply to the purchase of medical equipment, including imaging equipment. Current CON laws apply to almost all CT scan devices, with an exemption for a specific type of scanner used only by dentists. HB 5445 seeks to exempt "pedCAT" imaging equipment from CON.

The pedCAT scanner is a CT scan device designed to be used specifically on the foot and ankle area. This amazing new technology was recently approved by the FDA. It promises to be a highly effective tool for diagnosis of orthopedic and podiatric conditions and diseases such as arthritis, fractures, and bone spurs, and can give surgeons a clearer 3D image to assist with preoperative planning.

There is no legitimate reason to exempt pedCAT scanners from CON, and there are many good reasons to ensure that CON oversight applies. CON oversight of imaging equipment includes a detailed review of general safety standards for patient use, radiation standards, and credentials of staff operating the equipment, among dozens of other criteria. The pedCAT technology is new, and there is no baseline established to provide even a modicum of comfort that the machines should be deployed without oversight, when almost all other devices face strict review and detailed analysis.

CHA urges you not to support HB 5445, and to continue to apply CON standards to all imaging equipment unless and until there is strong and established evidence that such equipment warrants exemption.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

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