



**TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
Thursday, March 13, 2014**

HB 5500, An Act Concerning Provider Audits Under The Medicaid Program

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **HB 5500, An Act Concerning Provider Audits Under The Medicaid Program**. CHA supports this bill.

First, it's important to detail the critical role hospitals play in the health and quality of life of our communities. 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 treat everyone who comes through their doors 24 hours a day, regardless of ability to pay. In 2012, Connecticut hospitals provided nearly \$225 million in free services for those who could not afford to pay.

Connecticut hospitals are committed to initiatives that improve access to safe, equitable, high-quality care. They are ensuring that safety is reinforced as the most important focus—the foundation on which all hospital work is done. Connecticut hospitals launched the first statewide initiative in the country to become high reliability organizations, creating cultures with a relentless focus on safety and a goal to eliminate all preventable harm. This program is saving lives.

Regarding HB 5500, CHA supports the enactment of statutory provisions intended to achieve fairness in the audit process. It is critically important to hospitals and other providers that the principles of fairness, accuracy, clarity, and transparency serve as the hallmarks of the statutory framework upon which all subsequent regulations, audit practices, and procedures are based.

We endorse the adoption of defined terms in Section 1(a) and the requirement in Section 1(b) that DSS provide information and free training to new providers on the claims entry process. We are hopeful that Sections 1(c) on access to information and 1(d) on the use of extrapolated

projections will offer guidance for those individuals conducting the audits and greater clarity for those providers who are subject to the audit process. We support the enactment of the contractor payment provision in Section 1(e) and the provider notice provisions in Section 1(f).

Thank you for your consideration of our position. For additional information, contact CHA Government Relations at (203) 294-7310.