



**TESTIMONY OF  
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION  
SUBMITTED TO THE  
FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE  
Monday, March 17, 2014**

**HB 5545, An Act Concerning A Comprehensive Study Of The State's Tax Structure**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **HB 5545, An Act Concerning A Comprehensive Study Of The State's Tax Structure**. While CHA supports this bill, we respectfully ask the Committee to make one minor addition.

Before making our request, 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.

The benefits of hospitals extend well beyond their walls, as they strive to improve the health of our communities and play a vital role in our economy. Connecticut hospitals provide great jobs to more than 55,000 people who make sure we have access to the very best care whenever we need it. Every hospital job creates another job in our community. In total, Connecticut hospitals generate more than 110,000 jobs in our communities and contribute more than \$20 billion to the state and local economies.

CHA supports a comprehensive study of the state's tax structure contemplated in HB 5545, with one minor addition. We concur with the goals of increasing the tax system's simplicity, fairness, economic competitiveness, and affordability. However, we believe that such a study would be truly comprehensive only if it includes consideration of the hospital tax. For this reason, we respectfully ask the Committee to insert a specific reference to the hospital tax, perhaps in Section 1(d)(2), which addresses the corporation business tax.

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