



**TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
COMMERCE COMMITTEE
Tuesday, March 11, 2014**

SB 419, An Act Concerning Hospital And Wellness Enterprise Zones

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to testify on **SB 419, An Act Concerning Hospital And Wellness Enterprise Zones**. CHA supports this bill.

Before addressing the policy initiative of SB 419, it's important to highlight that 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 the concept of establishing enterprise zones around hospitals in Connecticut. Enterprise zones are designed to stimulate business growth and job creation in economically distressed communities in which market forces would not normally operate to generate such activity. As you know, hospitals in Connecticut are located primarily in large and small cities where such support is greatly needed. Our hospitals rely on local businesses to help them maintain their facilities and provide high quality healthcare services to patients.

SB 419 recognizes the fact that hospitals are the economic cornerstones of the neighborhoods and communities in which they are located. SB 419 would allow any municipality, with the approval of the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, to designate and establish a hospital and wellness enterprise zone to generate additional economic activity. Encouraging business activity around hospitals – facilities that are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, will help bring much needed economic growth and activity to communities across the state.

Connecticut hospitals applaud the Commerce Committee for recognizing the contributions hospitals and their employees make to your local communities and look forward to working with you and your colleagues to enact SB 419 once it becomes law.

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