



**TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2015**

HB 5625, An Act Concerning The Definition Of Surgery

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **HB 5625, An Act Concerning The Definition Of Surgery**. CHA has concerns about HB 5625.

Connecticut hospitals treat everyone who comes through their doors 24 hours a day, regardless of ability to pay.

Before commenting on the bill, it's important to point out that this is a time of unprecedented change in healthcare, and Connecticut hospitals are leading the charge to transform the way care is provided. They are focused on providing safe, accessible, equitable, affordable, patient-centered care for all, and they are finding innovative solutions to integrate and coordinate care to better serve their patients and communities.

HB 5625 seeks to establish a new definition of surgery. A change to the definition of surgery along the lines suggested would cause a significant, if not extreme, shift in the healthcare delivery system in Connecticut, and potentially across the region. It would drastically impact all hospital and outpatient surgical facility personnel and staff. More importantly, patients and the community would be substantially affected.

Connecticut hospitals employ or utilize a significant number of licensed healthcare professionals including physicians, advanced practice registered nurses, physician assistants, and other allied health professionals. The term "surgery" is currently used in more than 100 sections of the Connecticut General Statutes. To define surgery, it is essential that each and every use of the word be reviewed. This new definition will impact various licensed practitioners as well as the delivery of care to hospital patients. In addition, a change of this magnitude will require that hospital policies and procedures be changed.

CHA urges that this proposal go through the Department of Public Health's scope of practice review process, during which time each of these important issues can be fully researched and vetted by all interested parties.

Should the Committee wish to move the bill forward, we respectfully request the opportunity to work with the Committee and interested parties to refine the language of HB 5625 to ensure a full discussion surrounding the more than 100 uses of the word in the statutes.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

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