



**TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
Wednesday, March 11, 2015**

**HB 5907, An Act Concerning Notification To Emergency Medical Services
Organizations Regarding Patients Diagnosed With Infectious Diseases**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **HB 5907, An Act Concerning Notification To Emergency Medical Services Organizations Regarding Patients Diagnosed With Infectious Diseases**. CHA has concerns about HB 5907, as drafted.

Before commenting on the bill, it's important to point out that Connecticut hospitals treat everyone who comes through their doors 24 hours a day, regardless of ability to pay.

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.

CHA supports the concepts in HB 5907, but believes the bill needs clarifying language to avoid invading patients' privacy unnecessarily.

CHA and Connecticut hospitals worked collaboratively with the Department of Public Health and EMS providers to draft Section 19a-904 of the Connecticut General Statutes, which balances the needs of first responders with the privacy rights of patients. The recent Ebola crisis brought into sharp relief the need for more nimble updating of the key conditions that should trigger notification of potential exposure. But patient privacy should not be outweighed by every instance of a potentially infectious condition (such as the common flu or cold).

We recommend that Section 19a-904 be updated to indicate that the notice provisions shall apply to the conditions listed in the law already, as well as any additional conditions that the Department of Public Health indicates are important to maintain public health.

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