HB 5913, An Act Concerning Persons Who Decontaminate Reusable Medical Instruments Or Devices

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning HB 5913, An Act Concerning Persons Who Decontaminate Reusable Medical Instruments Or Devices.

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.

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 every day.

HB 5193 seeks to create a new category of statutory recognition for healthcare workers who decontaminate, inspect, assemble, or package and sterilize reusable medical instruments and devices—often called “central service technicians.” During the 2014 Legislative Session, CHA worked with representatives of the International Association of Healthcare Central Service Material Management to draft legislative language that would create statutory recognition for central service technicians that establishes credentialing standards and continuing education requirements, and recognizes the individuals currently serving as central service technicians. In addition, it contains key provisions that recognize the variety of instruments and devices used in hospitals to ensure that the health and safety of patients is always protected.
If the Committee decides to take action on HB 5193, CHA respectfully requests that the Committee use the attached language developed during the 2014 Legislative Session.

Thank you for your consideration of our position. For additional information, contact CHA Government Relations at (203) 294-7310.
"AN ACT CONCERNING PERSONS WHO DECONTAMINATE REUSABLE MEDICAL INSTRUMENTS OR DEVICES."

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (NEW) (Effective January 1, 2016) (a) As used in this section:

5 (1) "Central service technician" means a person who decontaminates, inspects, assembles, packages and sterilizes reusable medical instruments or devices in a health care facility, whether such person is employed by the health care facility or provides services pursuant to a contract with the health care facility, and who (A) has successfully passed a nationally accredited central service exam for central service technicians, and (B) holds and maintains one of the following credentials: (i) A certified registered central service technician credential administered by the International Association of Healthcare Central Service Materiel Management, (ii) a certified sterile
(b) Unless otherwise permitted pursuant to this section, no person shall practice as a central service technician unless such person meets the requirements detailed in subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, a person who is hired or contracts for services as a central service technician in a health care facility on or after January 1, 2016, but does not otherwise meet the requirements detailed in subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section may perform the functions of a central service technician, provided he or she obtains a certified registered central service technician credential administered by the International Association of Healthcare Central Service Materiel Management or a certified sterile processing and distribution technician credential administered by the Certification Board for Sterile Processing and Distribution, Inc., or (iii) a substantially equivalent credential, or (C) was employed or otherwise contracted for services as a central service technician in a health care facility before January 1, 2016;

(2) "Health care facility" means an outpatient surgical facility, as defined in section 19a-493b of the general statutes, or a hospital, as defined in section 19a-490b of the general statutes, but does not include a chronic disease hospital as defined by section 19a-550 of the general statutes;

(3) "Health care provider" means a person or organization that provides health care services and is licensed in accordance with title 20 of the general statutes; and

(4) "Central service department" means a department within a health care facility that processes, issues, and controls medical supplies, devices, and equipment, both sterile and nonsterile, for patient care areas of a health care facility.
(d) A central service technician shall complete a minimum of ten hours of continuing education annually. The continuing education shall be in areas related to the functions of a central service technician.

(e) A health care facility shall, upon the written request of a central service technician, verify, in writing, the central service technician's dates of employment or the contract period during which the central service technician provided services to the health care facility.

(f) Nothing in this section shall prohibit the following persons from performing the tasks or functions of a central service technician: (1) A health care provider, (2) a student or intern performing the functions of a central service technician under the direct supervision of a health care provider as part of the student's or intern's training or internship, or (3) a person who does not work in a central service department in a health care facility and has been specially trained and determined competent, based on standards set by a health care facility's infection prevention or control committee, acting in consultation with a central service technician certified in accordance with subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section, to decontaminate or sterilize reusable medical equipment, instruments or devices, in a manner that meets applicable manufacturer's instructions and standards.

(g) A health care facility shall retain a list of persons determined competent under subsection (f) of this section. Such list shall include job titles for such persons. A person determined competent pursuant to subsection (f) of this section shall annually complete a minimum of ten hours of continuing education in areas related to infection control and the decontamination and sterilization of reusable medical equipment, instruments and devices.
This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

| Section 1 | January 1, 2016 | New section |