



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

**HB 6938, An Act Concerning The Delivery Of Quality Health Care And
Modernization Of Health Care Facilities**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **HB 6938, An Act Concerning The Delivery Of Quality Health Care And Modernization Of Health Care Facilities**. CHA supports this bill.

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.

HB 6938 requires several state entities to study the feasibility of allowing hospital access to certain state programs and resources to provide some much needed assistance. Specifically, HB 6938 seeks studies on the feasibility of allowing hospitals to: qualify for state financing for several different types of hospital-based capital improvements, purchase prescription drugs through the state group purchasing contracts that are available currently to state agencies and municipalities only, and use funds from the State Innovation Model (SIM) to create a value-based healthcare delivery system in the city of Waterbury.

The provisions of HB 6938 are appreciated especially in light of the significant budget cuts proposed by the Governor, which include: a significant rate reduction applied to hospitals amounting to a cut of more than \$100 million per year, expansion of the hospital tax to \$514.4 million a year, the elimination of hospitals' ability to purchase tax credits, the requiring of hospitals to pay local property tax for certain facilities, and the elimination of a \$15 million per-year low-cost hospital pool.

Connecticut hospitals applaud the initiatives contained in HB 6938 and stand ready to work with the proponents and designated state agencies as they seek to study the feasibility of utilizing current state programs to help bring much needed relief and support to Connecticut's hospitals.

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