



**TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
Tuesday, March 17, 2015**

HB 6960, An Act Concerning Medicaid Prescriptions Written By Hospital Resident Physicians And Interns And The Implementation Of Electronic Health Record Standards

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **HB 6960, An Act Concerning Medicaid Prescriptions Written By Hospital Resident Physicians And Interns And The Implementation Of Electronic Health Record Standards**. 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 6960 seeks to remedy two separate problems negatively affecting hospitals and healthcare providers because certain processes used by the Department of Social Services have the unintended result of being inconsistent with requirements providers must observe for Medicare.

Section 1 addresses the Medicaid claims process specific to orders, prescriptions, and referrals by hospital residents and interns. The bill would require the Medicaid process to mirror the Medicare process, which allows the attending physician specifically – not the intern – to be the person listed on the order, prescription, or referral. Having a Medicaid process that is different from the Medicare process is not feasible and threatens hospital reimbursement unnecessarily. We have worked with the Department to find a solution, but are unlikely to finalize a workable process without HB 6960.

Section 2 of the bill would fine tune Connecticut's current electronic health record incentive program, which is supported by federal funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, to align providers' public health reporting standards with the Medicare program standards, avoid confusion, and promote a consistent review of providers' efforts in qualifying for the incentive program.

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