



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

**SB 110, An Act Concerning A Study On Reports Of Threats And Assaults
Against Hospital Employees**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 110, An Act Concerning A Study On Reports Of Threats And Assaults Against Hospital Employees**. CHA supports the 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.

In October of 2010, CHA convened a group of hospital representatives to discuss workplace violence and consider ways to address it. The group reviewed safety measures in place currently, consistent with The Joint Commission and OSHA guidelines. It examined and shared various practices, such as managing building access, strengthening relationships with local law enforcement, and expanding training programs in de-escalation techniques. During the 2011 Legislative Session, CHA supported the passage of **Public Act 11-175, An Act Concerning Workplace Violence Prevention and Response in Health Care Settings**, working with the chairs of the Public Health Committee to align new provisions with existing regulatory requirements and create a framework to protect hospital employees from violence.

Connecticut's hospitals are committed to keeping staff and the patients they serve safe. Should the Committee decide to enact this legislation, CHA would welcome the opportunity to work with the Department of Public Health to study the prevalence of assaults and threats against hospital employees with a goal of identifying effective and possible additional approaches for ensuring safety.

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