



**TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
AGING COMMITTEE
Tuesday, February 10, 2015**

**Proposed SB 290, An Act Concerning Patient-Designated Caregivers
Proposed HB 5455, An Act Concerning Family Caregivers**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **Proposed SB 290, An Act Concerning Patient-Designated Caregivers**, and **Proposed HB 5455, An Act Concerning Family Caregivers**. CHA supports these bills.

Connecticut hospitals treat everyone who comes through their doors 24 hours a day, regardless of ability to pay.

Before commenting on the proposed bills, 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.

The main goal of SB 290 and HB 5455, a goal shared by CHA, is to support those individuals who care for their loved ones once they return home from the hospital. Each of these bills has three important features:

1. The name of the family caregiver is recorded when a loved one is admitted into a hospital or rehabilitation facility.
2. The family caregiver is notified if the loved one is to be discharged to another facility or back home.
3. The facility provides an explanation and instruction of the care that the family caregiver will provide at home.

CHA knows the transition from the hospital to home can be difficult. We also know patients benefit when families and friends are engaged in their recovery. SB 290 and HB 5455 recognize the critical role caregivers play every day in the health of their families and friends.

CHA supports SB 290 and HB 5455. We look forward to working with the Committee and continuing our work with the AARP that accomplishes the goals of these bills and is appropriately coordinated with hospitals' existing legal and regulatory requirements.

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