



**TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2015**

SB 955, An Act Implementing Provisions Of The Budget Concerning Public Health

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 955, An Act Implementing Provisions Of The Budget Concerning Public Health**. CHA opposes Section 3 of 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.

Section 3 of SB 955 proposes to eliminate the Connecticut Commission on Health Equity and have the Department of Public Health take on the mission and priorities of the Commission. The Commission is legislatively authorized to "collect and analyze government and other data regarding the health status of state inhabitants based on race, ethnicity, national origin and linguistic ability, including access, services and outcomes in private and public health care institutions within the state." The Commission provides this analysis on an independent, bipartisan basis.

Ensuring integrated, equitable, culturally competent care is also a priority of Connecticut hospitals. Hospitals in Connecticut participate in the CHA Diversity Collaborative, a first-in-the nation program to achieve these goals. CHA has been pleased to work with the Commission to advance health equity, and encourages the Appropriations Committee to support the Commission's independence and important work.

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