



**TESTIMONY OF  
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION  
SUBMITTED TO THE  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2016**

**HB 5451, An Act Concerning The Department Of Public Health's  
Recommendations For Various Revisions To The Office Of Health  
Care Access Statutes**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **HB 5451, An Act Concerning The Department Of Public Health's Recommendations For Various Revisions To The Office Of Health Care Access Statutes**. CHA opposes section 12.

Before commenting on the bill, it's important to point out that Connecticut hospitals provide core healthcare services to all of the people in Connecticut, 24 hours a day, regardless of ability to pay. Connecticut hospitals offer safe, accessible, equitable, affordable, patient-centered care that protects and improves peoples' lives.

HB 5451 makes several changes to the Office of Health Care Access (OHCA) statutes. Section 12 significantly lowers the standard by which OHCA may impose a civil penalty for failure to seek CON approval as required by Section 19a-638. It is unclear why OHCA wants to lower the standard to a degree that would punish those who are acting in good faith to comply. In each of the last several sessions, the legislature has made significant and complex changes, some very difficult to understand, to the CON statutes and process and, as such, it is not the time to lower the standard by which the state may impose penalties on healthcare facilities and providers.

If the Committee decides to take action on HB 5451, CHA respectfully requests that it delete Section 12.

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