



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

**SB 244, An Act Concerning The Reporting Of Injuries Resulting From The  
Discharge Of A Firearm And Stab Wounds**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 244, An Act Concerning The Reporting Of Injuries Resulting From The Discharge Of A Firearm And Stab Wounds**. CHA supports the bill and seeks further clarification as described below.

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.

CHA is concerned that the mandatory reporting of any stab wound will result in the reporting of routine lacerations, inconsequential injuries, or accidental stab wounds. On the other hand, there may be other knife injuries that are significant, but may not be a stab wound, which is a specific form of penetrating trauma that results from a knife or similar pointed object. We recommend that the phrase "or a stab wound" in the proposed bill be replaced by the following phrase: or any injury or wound that is likely to or may result in death from weapons such as blades, knives, or similar objects. This is the approach adopted in states such as New York.

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