



**TESTIMONY OF  
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION  
SUBMITTED TO THE  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE  
Monday, March 20, 2017**

**HB 7089, An Act Concerning The Department Of Public Health's  
Recommendations Regarding Enhancements In Tobacco Control**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **HB 7089, An Act Concerning The Department Of Public Health's Recommendations Regarding Enhancements In Tobacco Control**.

Before commenting on the bill, it's important to point out that Connecticut hospitals provide high quality care for everyone, regardless of ability to pay. Connecticut hospitals are finding innovative solutions to integrate and coordinate care to better serve patients and communities, as well as achieve health equity. These dynamic, complex organizations are working to build a healthier Connecticut. That means building a healthy economy, community, and healthcare system. By investing in the future of Connecticut's healthcare and hospitals, rather than continuing to cut away at them, we will strengthen our economy, put communities to work, and deliver affordable care that Connecticut families deserve.

HB 7089 makes a number of revisions to the state's existing Clean Indoor Act that update the law to better reflect current workplace environments and encompass other tobacco delivery systems such as vaping and e-cigarettes. CHA supports these changes and specifically appreciates the added clarity indicating that a smoke-free building, such as a hospital, is not required to place no smoking signs in every room or elevator, but instead, to place signs in a conspicuous place within each building. CHA also appreciates the clarity provided in the definition of "vapor product," which separates medical devices – including some inhalers, nebulizers, humidifiers, atomizers, and other common devices used for asthma or COPD – from the same category as e-cigarettes.

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