



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

**HB 7222, An Act Concerning The Department Of Public Health’s Various Revisions
To The Public Health Statutes**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **HB 7222, An Act Concerning The Department Of Public Health’s Various Revisions To The Public Health Statutes**. CHA supports the bill but would like to highlight a few areas needing further clarification.

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.

Section 7 of the bill requires healthcare institutions that experience major system failures to report such incidences to the Department of Public Health (“DPH”). The language “major system failures” is not clearly defined, and CHA would like to work with DPH to better understand and clarify what is being required of healthcare institutions.

Section 15 of the bill requires hospitals and “any licensed health care professional providing care and treatment” to a child with a birth defect to report this information to DPH. The way the language is currently drafted would necessitate any licensed healthcare professional providing care and treatment to the child to report this information to the state even if the child has already been reported. The language has the potential for multiple and ongoing reports to be submitted to DPH well beyond the initial report. CHA would recommend either that the language be modified to allow for one member of the care team to issue the report or that limiting language be inserted that calls for the report, unless the provider is aware of the child already being included in the birth defect registry. This will permit the collection of this important information without unduly burdening the care team or DPH staff resources.

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