



**TESTIMONY OF  
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION  
SUBMITTED TO THE  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE  
Tuesday, March 7, 2017**

**SB 117, An Act Concerning Community Benefits Plans**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 117, An Act Concerning Community Benefits Plans**.

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.

SB 117 seeks to require a hospital to include in its community benefits plan "measures to address social determinants of health." CHA supports the theory that *all stakeholders* in the care continuum need to pay close attention to various factors about patients, populations, and communities to ensure healthcare is being made accessible and affordable. However, adding reporting obligations duplicating part of an elaborate federal reporting system simply adds another unnecessary burden on hospitals. With changes likely to various federal programs and filing requirements, it would be more appropriate to wait until the dust settles in Washington before making changes to reporting laws that may cause misalignment between federal and state obligations.

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