



**TESTIMONY OF  
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE  
Friday, February 17, 2017**

**SB 451, An Act Protecting Patients From Unreasonable Medical Bills**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 451, An Act Protecting Patients From Unreasonable Medical Bills**.

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 451 provides that the Connecticut General Statutes be amended to close loopholes and increase patient protections regarding facility fees charged at hospital-owned and hospital-affiliated facilities. As drafted, it is unclear specifically how SB 451 modifies existing law.

CHA is always pleased to work with the Committee on any issue of significance. It is important to note that in each of the last three years, the legislature passed bills impacting hospital-owned and hospital-affiliated facilities. However, given the significant changes to healthcare on the horizon from the federal government, CHA urges the Committee to refrain from adding any new hospital mandates this year.

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