



**TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
COMMERCE COMMITTEE
Thursday, March 9, 2017**

**SB 959, An Act Concerning An Inventory Of The State's
Bioscience Education Pipeline**

SB 960, An Act Concerning A Study Of The Bioscience Industry

**SB 962, An Act Concerning The Development Of Evaluative Metrics For Bioscience
Investments In The State**

SB 968, An Act Concerning The Connecticut Health Data Collaborative

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 959, An Act Concerning An Inventory Of The State's Bioscience Education Pipeline; SB 960, An Act Concerning A Study Of The Bioscience Industry; SB 962 An Act Concerning The Development Of Evaluative Metrics For Bioscience Investments In The State; and SB 968, An Act Concerning The Connecticut Health Data Collaborative.**

Before commenting on the bills, 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.

At the outset, it is important that I recognize Senator Hartley for her leadership on the important issues and consequent bills related to bioscience and biotechnology. For countless hours throughout the summer and into the fall, Sen. Hartley and her Co-Chair Joseph McGee guided and led an important conversation with a large multi-disciplinary group of interested parties, which included representatives from the fields of bioscience, community health, healthcare, health insurance, research and development, education, data and technology. Collectively, the group was called the Connecticut Health Data Collaborative Working Group.

Sen. Hartley charged the Connecticut Health Data Collaborative Working Group to find ways to collaborate more effectively. Members of the group identified new opportunities, saw new partnerships formed, and set ambitious goals to make Connecticut a national leader in the field of precision medicine and personalized health. SB 959, SB 960, SB 962, and SB 968 are the result of those months of conversations, synergies, and relationship-building.

SB 959 requires the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD); Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated (CII); the Department of Education; the Board of Regents for Higher Education; and The University of Connecticut to conduct an inventory of the educational resources available in the state to prepare students for careers in the bioscience field. SB 960 requires DECD to study issues relating to the state's bioscience industry. SB 962 requires CII to develop metrics to evaluate the state's investments in bioscience. SB 968 requires the Commission on Economic Competitiveness to create and foster a health data collaborative to examine and report on precision medicine and personalized health and health data issues. CHA supports these bills.

Connecticut hospitals strive every day 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, we will strengthen our economy and deliver affordable care that Connecticut families deserve.

These four bills will enhance the state's climate for investments in bioscience and make Connecticut a leader in the precision medicine and personalized health field, which will help build a healthier state economy and lead to improved health for residents. CHA looks forward to continuing to work with Sen. Hartley and colleagues from the Connecticut Health Data Collaborative Working Group.

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