



**TESTIMONY OF
KAREN M. BUCKLEY
VICE PRESIDENT, ADVOCACY
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
Friday, March 16, 2018**

**HB 5152, An Act Concerning The Prescribing Of Controlled Substances
Used In Medication-Assisted Treatment Of Substance Use Disorders
Through The Use Of Telehealth**

**HB 5299, An Act Concerning Telehealth Prescribing For Treatment Of Psychiatric
Disorders**

Good Morning. My name is Karen M. Buckley, and I am the Vice President, Advocacy, at the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA). I am here today to testify in support of **HB 5152, An Act Concerning The Prescribing Of Controlled Substances Used In Medication-Assisted Treatment Of Substance Use Disorders Through The Use Of Telehealth**, and **HB 5299, An Act Concerning Telehealth Prescribing For Treatment Of Psychiatric Disorders**.

Before commenting on the bills, it's important to point out that Connecticut hospitals provide high quality care for everyone, regardless of their ability to pay. Connecticut hospitals are dynamic, complex organizations that are continually working to find innovative ways to better serve patients and communities and build a healthier Connecticut. By investing in the future of Connecticut's hospitals, we will strengthen our healthcare system and our economy, put communities to work, and deliver affordable care that Connecticut families deserve.

Telehealth is a fairly new, rapidly developing method of delivering direct patient care that is becoming more commonly used in Connecticut and across the country. HB 5299 seeks to permit the prescribing of Schedule I, II, or III controlled substances through the use of telehealth for the treatment of psychiatric disorders. It also seeks to require payment parity for telehealth services. HB 5152 seeks to permit the prescribing of controlled substances used in medication-assisted treatment of substance use disorders through the use of telehealth services. CHA supports these measures as they seek to increase access to care overall and specifically in the area of psychiatry.

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