



**TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
February 28, 2018**

HB 5160, An Act Concerning The Donation Of Blood By Minors

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **HB 5160, An Act Concerning The Donation Of Blood By Minors**. CHA supports this bill.

Before commenting on the bill, 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. They are developing integrated delivery networks with physicians, services, and technology to make sure patients receive high quality, coordinated, cost-effective, patient focused, and equitable care. 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.

Connecticut hospitals rely on voluntary blood donations to provide essential medical care to their patients. It is imperative that donations are encouraged and collected from those who are willing to provide this essential element of life.

We know that the sooner people are allowed and encouraged to donate, the more likely they are to continue as donors throughout their lifetime. This bill allows for the opportunity to expand the pool of available donors by lowering the age at which one can donate blood from 17 to 16. In doing so, Connecticut would be joining 13 other states that have taken steps to increase the potential supply of blood both in the short- and long-term.

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