



**TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE
Tuesday, February 27, 2018**

**HB 5241, An Act Establishing Fines For Violations Of The Electronic
Prescription Drug Monitoring Program**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **HB 5241, An Act Establishing Fines For Violations Of The Electronic Prescription Drug Monitoring Program**. CHA opposes the bill as written.

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.

CHA opposes HB 5241 as written because it unfairly seeks to punish unintended failures of practitioners who, in good faith, are trying to comply with new and changing laws and technologies. CHA believes the objective of the bill is to ensure that practitioners do not flout the system by ignoring well-known requirements. CHA supports that goal.

To accomplish this, but not needlessly punish those acting in good faith, CHA recommends that the following additional language (as underlined) be added to the bill:

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2019*) Any person who is required to follow the provisions of the electronic prescription drug monitoring program established pursuant to section 21a-254 of the general statutes who knowingly and willfully violates any such provision shall, (1) for a first offense, be fined not more than one thousand dollars, and (2) for any subsequent offense, be fined not more than three thousand dollars.

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