



**TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
Monday, March 5, 2018**

SB 169, An Act Concerning Clinical Clerkships And Training

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 169, An Act Concerning Clinical Clerkships And Training**. CHA opposes the 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. 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.

SB 169 seeks to "prohibit placement of students seeking a degree as an anesthesiology assistant in clinical clerkships and training" in Connecticut. As this Committee may be aware, the Department of Public Health has considered this issue and determined that such a clerkship is appropriate and safe in Connecticut, including at Connecticut hospitals, when performed under proper supervision. There are also various, similar programs across the country with comparable training, education, and clerkship opportunities. Setting aside for a moment whether a prohibition on training anesthesia assistants is wise, the method of achieving the prohibition set forth in SB 169 is not the most appropriate.

SB 169 would remove the ability of any accredited medical school in Connecticut for normal oversight of any program directed at training in the medical arts other than a program specific to physicians. That restriction is misaligned with how current graduate medical education is organized in the United States and would render Connecticut's medical schools anachronistic, lagging behind the entire nation, and unable to fulfill their purpose properly. It would be a step backward, which is an unreasonable price to pay in exchange for blocking the training of anesthesia assistants in Connecticut.

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