



**TESTIMONY OF  
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION  
SUBMITTED TO THE  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE  
Friday, March 16, 2018**

**SB 302, An Act Concerning Telehealth Services**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 302, An Act Concerning Telehealth Services**. CHA supports the bill and thanks the Committee for raising 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. 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. While once used primarily for primary care, telehealth is now being used for the full spectrum of care and for more levels of acuity.

SB 302 seeks to:

- Permit the prescribing of Schedule I, II, or III controlled substances through the use of telehealth in accordance with federal law
- Add both registered nurses and pharmacists to the list of professionals who are permitted to provide telehealth services
- Clarify the current law regarding patient consent to care

CHA supports these measures, as they seek to increase access to care overall and clarify Connecticut's current telehealth law.

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