

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

SB 303, An Act Concerning Urgent Care Centers

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 303, An Act Concerning Urgent Care Centers**. 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.

Section 1 of SB 303 makes modifications to recently passed statutes related to the imposition of facility fees. As drafted, it is unclear specifically how Section 1 of SB 303 modifies existing law.

As drafted, Section 2 of SB 303 is internally inconsistent and would be impossible to implement. The goal of this section appears to be to regulate the signage outside of outpatient clinics, urgent care centers, and freestanding Emergency Departments. Section 2 would be impossible for hospitals and physicians to implement because:

- The definition of "outpatient clinic" in Section 2 specifically excludes an outpatient clinic operated by a hospital. Thus, a hospital could never post an "outpatient clinic" sign, though hospitals legally operate "outpatient clinics" throughout the state.
- Existing law requires that an "urgent care center" must be licensed as an "outpatient clinic," but the section indicates there can only be one sign or the other.
- It does not take into account that many times a patient will arrive at a "freestanding Emergency Department," seeking what he or she believes is emergency care, or seek care there as it is the only facility open, and fortunately only need urgent care, which can be offered.
- It does not take into consideration that many times a location may contain an outpatient clinic and urgent care center in the same location.
- It does not take into account the existing federal laws concerning the required signage for Emergency Departments.

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