



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

**SB 304, An Act Establishing A Maternity Mortality Review Committee
Within The Department Of Public Health**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 304, An Act Establishing A Maternity Mortality Review Committee Within The Department Of Public Health**. 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. 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 304 establishes a maternity mortality review committee. As drafted, CHA has several concerns with SB 304, specifically:

- The bill defines "maternal death" as the death of a woman while pregnant or not later than one year after the date on which the woman ceases to be pregnant, ***regardless of whether the woman's death is related to her pregnancy***. This Committee should specifically consider if the newly created mortality review committee should be tasked with reviewing a women's death one year after she ceases to be pregnant (e.g., a woman dies 11 months after delivery in a car accident).
- Section 2 allows any provider, healthcare facility, and pharmacy access to all medical records of any case under review notwithstanding their involvement or relationship in the case. The controls placed on use of data, privacy, and access in SB 304 are not sufficient.

CHA urges this Committee to consider specifically whether these sections require modification.

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