



**TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
February 4, 2019**

HB 5142, An Act Prohibiting Female Genital Mutilation

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **HB 5142, An Act Prohibiting Female Genital Mutilation**. CHA supports the concept of this bill.

Before commenting on the bill, it's important to point out that Connecticut hospitals and health systems provide high quality care for everyone, regardless of their ability to pay. They do more than treat illness and injury. They build a healthier Connecticut by improving community health, managing chronic illness, expanding access to primary care, preparing for emergencies, and addressing social determinants of health. 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.

While CHA supports the concept of prohibiting female genital mutilation, should the bill move forward, CHA respectfully asks the Committee to incorporate language similar to the language below that was included in last year's bill. The inclusion of this language will serve to protect women while also allowing for appropriate clinical practice.

“(b) A surgical operation is not a violation of subsection (a) of this section if such operation is (1) necessary to the health of the person on whom it is performed, and is performed by a physician licensed pursuant to chapter 370 of the general statutes; or (2) performed on a person in labor or who has just given birth by a physician licensed pursuant to chapter 370 of the general statutes, a nurse-midwife licensed pursuant to chapter 377 of the general statutes or a person in training to become such a physician or nurse-midwife. A surgical operation is not necessary to the health of the person on whom it is performed if the basis for such necessity is the belief of such person or any other person that such operation is required as a matter of custom or ritual.”

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