



**TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
Monday, February 11, 2019**

HB 5449, An Act Concerning The Donation Of Blood By Minors

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **HB 5449, An Act Concerning The Donation Of Blood By Minors**. CHA supports 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.

Connecticut hospitals rely on voluntary blood donations to provide essential medical care to their patients. It is imperative that these lifesaving donations are encouraged and collected from those who are willing to provide it.

We know that the sooner people are allowed and encouraged to donate, the more likely they are to continue as donors throughout their lifetime. This bill allows for the opportunity to expand the pool of available donors by allowing 16-year-olds to donate blood as long as they obtain parental consent. In doing so, Connecticut would be joining a number of other states that have taken steps to increase the potential supply of blood both in the short- and long-term.

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