

**TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
COMMITTEE ON AGING
Tuesday, February 19, 2019**

**HB 7101, An Act Concerning Flu Shots For Senior Citizens
Prior To Hospital Discharge**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **HB 7101, An Act Concerning Flu Shots For Senior Citizens Prior To Hospital Discharge**. CHA believes this bill is unnecessary.

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.

Current law in Connecticut (Sec. 19a-490k (c)) states *"A hospital may administer influenza and pneumococcal vaccines to patients, after an assessment for contraindications, without a physician's order, in accordance with a physician-approved hospital policy."* This statute was adopted several years ago, at the request of Connecticut hospitals, to increase hospitals' immunization rates.

For a number of years now, hospitals have been measured on their rate of immunizations (IMM). The federal IMM measure *"... addresses acute care hospitalized inpatients age 6 months and older who were screened for seasonal influenza immunization status and were vaccinated prior to discharge if indicated."*

In the most recently reported data, Connecticut is performing at the national average (93%) for immunizing patients and better than national average for immunizing healthcare workers (94%). With compliance rates so high, it is clear that the current law continues to work and provides more than adequate coverage for the issue.

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