



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

**HB 7196, An Act Concerning The Department Of Public Health's
Recommendation Regarding Seat Belts**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **HB 7196, An Act Concerning The Department Of Public Health's Recommendation Regarding Seat Belts**. 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. 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.

HB 7196 expands the seat belt law to require all persons to wear seat belts, regardless of where they sit within a motor vehicle. CHA supports this measure and other safety initiatives that are known to reduce the risk of serious injury and death.

All too often, caregivers in hospital Emergency Departments and trauma centers are called on to treat patients as a result of both minor and serious traffic accidents. HB 7196 would align Connecticut statute with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's guidelines for passenger safety, which recommends that seat belts be worn by every person in the vehicle, on every trip.

HB 7196 allows the state to take proactive steps to limit the pain and suffering caused by injury due to not wearing a seat belt and, for this reason, CHA is happy to support this bill.

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