



**TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE
Tuesday, February 25, 2020**

**HB 5251, An Act Establishing A Task Force To Study Health Insurance
Coverage For Undocumented Immigrants In This State**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **HB 5251, An Act Establishing A Task Force To Study Health Insurance Coverage For Undocumented Immigrants In This State**. CHA supports the bill.

Before commenting on this bill, it is important to point out that Connecticut hospitals and health systems provide high quality care for everyone, regardless of their ability to pay, and work to improve the health of those who live in our communities. Supporting Connecticut's hospitals strengthens our healthcare system and our economy.

HB 5251 establishes a task force to study health insurance coverage for undocumented immigrants in Connecticut. The study will examine the means available to promote and increase health insurance coverage for undocumented immigrants, and any obstacles to promoting and increasing such coverage.

CHA applauds the sponsors of HB 5251 for thinking about ways to ensure that every resident has access to affordable health insurance. We know that access to affordable health insurance is essential to building a healthier Connecticut for everyone. We also know that while a person's immigration status does not alter their need for medical care, there are costs associated with expanding coverage. Connecticut hospitals already play an important role by providing healthcare in instances where individuals seek care at the hospital for conditions that could otherwise be treated in primary care settings or are forced into emergency situations because they are ineligible for preventive care or specialized care (e.g., hemodialysis). Hospitals often absorb the cost of these services. The creation of a task force is an important step in analyzing the importance of finding ways to increase health insurance coverage for immigrants as well as analyzing the challenges and obstacles.

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