



**TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
Monday, February 24, 2020**

**SB 151, An Act Concerning Recommendations By The Department Of
Transportation**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 151, An Act Concerning Recommendations By The Department Of Transportation**. CHA supports this 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.

SB 151 expands the seat belt law to require that all persons wear seat belts regardless of where they sit within a motor vehicle. Unrestrained passengers are at higher risk of injury or death, no matter where they are in the vehicle. Unrestrained passengers are also more likely to become a projectile and injure others. As such, 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. SB 151 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.

SB 151 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.