



**TESTIMONY OF  
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION  
SUBMITTED TO THE  
INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE  
Thursday, March 5, 2020**

**SB 323, An Act Concerning Surprise Billing And Cost Sharing For Health Care Services Provided By Out-Of-Network Providers At In-Network Facilities**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 323, An Act Concerning Surprise Billing And Cost Sharing For Health Care Services Provided By Out-Of-Network Providers At In-Network Facilities**. CHA opposes 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.

Current Connecticut law, which became effective July 1, 2016, includes specific reimbursement rules for what an insurance company must pay for emergency services rendered to a patient at an out-of-network facility, or at an in-network facility but by out-of-network providers. These statutory requirements are meant to protect the patient from surprise bills and also to provide a fair process for payment to providers who deliver emergency care.

Recently, the Connecticut General Assembly engaged in a thorough examination of all of the issues surrounding the circumstances in which a patient at an in-network hospital could be treated by an out-of-network provider. The outcome was a statute that protects the patient from surprise bills while ensuring fair payment for the services provided.

SB 323 would substitute a new method for determining provider payment in place of one of the three reimbursement methodologies in current law. This change would upend the balance created in the original law, which recognized the critical life-saving work of emergency department physicians.

Finally, Congress is actively working on federal legislation to address the surprise billing issue, and action may come as soon as this year. Given that we have a process currently in place to address the issue, we should not make any changes until we see the outcome of federal discussions, and then reevaluate whether changes are needed in Connecticut's law.

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