



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

**SB 341, An Act Concerning Participation By Covered Persons, Authorized
Representatives And Health Care Professionals In Utilization Reviews**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 341, An Act Concerning Participation By Covered Persons, Authorized Representatives And Health Care Professionals In Utilization Reviews**. CHA has concerns with the bill, as written.

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 341 requires healthcare professionals to notify a patient of their right to submit additional information, "a covered person's story", for consideration as part of a utilization review.

CHA supports patients' involvement in their care, as we know that patient- and family-centered care improves care and outcomes. However, CHA has concerns with SB 341, as written. SB 341, as drafted, imposes requirements on healthcare professionals that are, unclear, and duplicative of other provisions of the bill.

SB 341 is unclear on exactly when a healthcare professional would be required to submit the notice to the patient, and how a healthcare professional would be able determine to whom such a notice is required to be sent. It is unclear whether the submission of a "covered person's story", to a utilization review entity would delay the review.

SB 341 also requires health insurance carriers to include in their existing materials provided to their beneficiaries, information about a beneficiary's ability to submit a "covered person's story". If this Committee decides to take action on SB 341, CHA requests that section 1 be deleted given the increased burden SB 341 would place on healthcare professionals and the fact that patients already receive this information from their health insurance carrier.

In addition, the patient needs to be aware that submission of a “covered person’s story” when sent either to the healthcare professional or utilization review entity will become part of the patient’s medical and billing records maintained by the healthcare professional or health insurance carrier (or both). Once part of the record, the use and release of those materials including disclosure to other entities or providers, will be governed by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). The patient will not have the right to control or restrict certain uses and disclosures of those materials.

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