



**TESTIMONY OF  
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION  
SUBMITTED TO THE  
INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE  
Thursday, March 18, 2021**

**SB 1051, An Act Establishing A Task Force To Study Medical  
Practice Ownership Models**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 1051, An Act Establishing A Task Force To Study Medical Practice Ownership Models**. CHA does not object to the bill, but believes broader stakeholder representation is needed.

Before commenting on this bill, it is important to acknowledge that, since early 2020, Connecticut's hospitals and health systems have been at the center of the global public health emergency, acting as the critical partner in the state's response to COVID-19. Hospitals expanded critical care capacity, stood up countless community COVID-19 testing locations, and are a critical component of the vaccine distribution plan. Through it all, hospitals and health systems have continued to provide high-quality care for everyone, regardless of ability to pay.

SB 1051 would create a task force to convene various stakeholders including patient advocates, economic experts, public health experts, policymakers and other state officials, a handful of medical providers, and others "to study the corporate practice of medicine doctrine, health carrier ownership of medical practices located in this state and medical practice ownership models that ensure the integrity of medical judgments, optimize patient outcomes and minimize corporate influence."

CHA and its member hospitals support informed decision-making any time the state engages in assessments and recommendations that could fundamentally alter the healthcare delivery system, including for this focused topic. For this discussion, there needs to be meaningful input from core provider sectors at a statewide and association level, including hospitals, physicians, health centers, and retail and chain pharmacies. For example, the task force would benefit from a representative with a statewide understanding of the various state and federal laws and regulations governing hospitals and hospital-employed physicians as well as hospital credentialing requirements.

With the level of interconnectedness of today's healthcare ecosystem, more complete stakeholder participation is critical.

CHA, on behalf of its member hospitals, looks forward to the opportunity to work cooperatively with the legislature, various state agencies, and the task force to explore ways to better serve patients and their communities.

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