



**TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
Monday, February 8, 2021**

**SB 115, An Act Prohibiting The Sale Of Cigarettes, Tobacco Products,
Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems And Vapor Products By
Health Care Facilities And Pharmacies**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 115, An Act Prohibiting The Sale Of Cigarettes, Tobacco Products, Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems And Vapor Products By Health Care Facilities And Pharmacies**. CHA supports this bill.

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 115 would prohibit any healthcare facility or pharmacy from selling cigarettes, tobacco products, electronic nicotine delivery systems, and vapor products.

CHA supports strong tobacco-control measures, whether through municipal ordinances, workplace policies, or state and federal laws. On a daily basis, caregivers in Connecticut hospitals see firsthand the impact of tobacco-related disease and illness and, because of this, we wholeheartedly endorse common sense public policy initiatives, such as SB 115.

Should the committee move forward with the bill, we respectfully ask that the prohibitions in this section shall not apply to any product that has a documented medicinal use or is otherwise FDA-approved as a drug, device, or biological product.

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