



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

SB 285, An Act Allowing Medical Assistants To Administer Vaccines

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 285, An Act Allowing Medical Assistants To Administer Vaccines**.

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. This tireless commitment to the COVID-19 response confirms the value of strong hospitals in Connecticut's public health infrastructure and economy and reinforces the need for a strong partnership between the state and hospitals.

SB 285 would allow medical assistants to administer a vaccine under the supervision of a physician or an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN). CHA recognizes the significant debate over the training and appropriateness of allowing medical assistants to administer all vaccines. It is an issue that requires additional consideration and we support the Committee's review and analysis of the suitability of allowing medical assistants to administer all vaccines.

While the Committee considers a more expansive role for medical assistants in administering vaccines, CHA does support a timely, more limited role for these professionals in the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine. As the state and hospitals continue the difficult undertaking of vaccinating every resident of the state, hospitals and other healthcare providers will need a growing number of appropriately trained staff to administer the COVID-19 vaccine. Allowing certified, trained, and supervised medical assistants to administer the COVID-19 vaccine will be essential. As with other providers who have been authorized by the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health (DPH) to administer COVID-19 vaccines, CHA supports that, prior to allowing a medical assistant to administer a COVID-19 vaccine, they first be required to complete a vaccination training program deemed appropriate by the DPH Commissioner to train such person.

We understand that the Committee is exploring the idea of recognizing the role of the surgical technician as part of this bill. Should the Committee pursue such recognition in this bill or in another piece of legislation, we would appreciate the opportunity to continue our work with the proponents and the Committee on such a provision.

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