



**TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
Monday, March 7, 2022**

**HB 5046, An Act Adopting The Interstate Medical Licensure Compact And
Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **HB 5046, An Act Adopting The Interstate Medical Licensure Compact And Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact**. CHA supports the bill.

Since early 2020, hospitals and health systems have been at the center of Connecticut's response to the COVID-19 public health emergency, acting as a vital partner with the state and our communities. Hospitals expanded critical care capacity, procured essential equipment and supplies, and stood up countless community COVID-19 testing locations. Hospitals have been an essential component of the statewide vaccine distribution plan including efforts to reach and serve historically under-resourced communities disproportionately affected by the virus.

Connecticut hospitals and health systems face a significant and growing workforce shortage in many areas, especially in nursing, but also in the fields of behavioral health and respiratory care.

CHA was pleased to be a participant in the work groups to study licensure compacts. HB 5046 begins to move Connecticut in the direction of participation in interstate compacts. While this is a step in the right direction, we request continued deliberation and discussion on the licensure compacts not yet reviewed by the work groups, including those not recommended for legislative action this session, such as the nurse licensure compact.

We understand that there are a number of questions and concerns about licensure compacts that need to be addressed and CHA would welcome the opportunity to continue the discussions in other workforce shortage categories, so that they may be ready for legislative action in the future.

Participation in licensure compacts is one tool to address workforce shortage issues; participation in licensure compacts must be coupled with other steps to improve the education pipeline, support retention and recruitment, and improve opportunities for career advancement.

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