



**TESTIMONY OF  
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION  
SUBMITTED TO THE  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE  
Wednesday, March 9, 2022**

**HB 5278, An Act Prohibiting An Unauthorized Intimate Examination  
On A Patient Who Is Under Deep Sedation Or Anesthesia Or Unconscious**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **HB 5278, An Act Prohibiting An Unauthorized Intimate Examination On A Patient Who Is Under Deep Sedation Or Anesthesia Or Unconscious**. CHA supports the bill with modifications.

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. 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 the well-being of our communities and reinforces the need for a strong partnership between the state and hospitals.

CHA agrees that intimate exams should not be performed without consent, absent a significant clinical purpose, and consent should be obtained whenever possible. Specifically, the bill should expressly consider: emergencies, including when a woman may be unconscious prior to arrival at a hospital and needs treatment; unexpected developments during surgery, procedures, or labor; and necessary examinations to assess evolving clinical issues or to provide treatment.

CHA recently met with proponents of the bill and we are in ongoing dialogue regarding substitute language that supports the concept of the bill, while also helping to ensure consistent implementation at Connecticut's teaching hospitals. We expect to have revised draft language available for the Committee later this week.

We look forward to working with the Committee on this important issue.

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