



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

**HB 5303, An Act Concerning Continuing Medical Education Requirements
Concerning Endometriosis And Cultural Competency And The Creation Of A Plan
For An Endometriosis Data And Biorepository Program**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **HB 5303, An Act Concerning Continuing Medical Education Requirements Concerning Endometriosis And Cultural Competency And The Creation Of A Plan For An Endometriosis Data And Biorepository Program**. CHA supports this 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. Through it all, hospitals and health systems have continued to provide high-quality care for everyone, regardless of ability to pay.

HB 5303, among other things, (1) allows licensed physicians to take, as part of their continuing medical education (CME), at least one contact hour on screening for endometriosis, and (2) requires that, during that contact hour, issues related to the effects of systemic racism, explicit and implicit bias, racial disparities, and the experiences of transgender and gender-diverse persons on patient diagnosis, care, and treatment be taught.

We know that social factors influence health. Training that includes a focus on the social context of health—including a focus on the effects of systemic racism, explicit and implicit bias, racial disparities, and the experiences of transgender and gender-diverse persons—can support patient diagnosis, care, quality, and treatment. The need for training focused on health inequities and the impact of societal factors like racism has grown abundantly clear over the last few years, particularly in light of the disparate impact of COVID-19 on Black and Latino/a populations. Latino/a people have been twice as likely as white, non-Latino/a people to contract the coronavirus, and Black communities have experienced twice the death rate.

Even before the pandemic, 14% of Black people had poor or fair health compared with 8% of non-Latino/a white people. Fortunately, a growing number of nursing, medical, and health professional schools are working more intentionally to provide education around health equity.

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