



**TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
Friday, March 25, 2022**

**SB 399, An Act Concerning The Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund
And The Sale Of Tobacco Products**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 399, An Act Concerning The Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund And The Sale Of Tobacco Products**. 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.

SB 399 would restore funding to the Tobacco Trust Fund, to be used for tobacco control initiatives and would require each person purchasing a tobacco product to present a driver's license or identity card to establish their age eligibility for such purchase.

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. Because of this, we believe that a substantial investment in tobacco control initiatives, funded through the Tobacco Trust Fund, as envisioned in SB 399, will go a long way in keeping our communities healthy.

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