



**TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE
Thursday, March 9, 2023**

HB 6831, An Act Concerning The Override Of Step Therapy For Certain Mental Health Conditions

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **HB 6831, An Act Concerning The Override Of Step Therapy For Certain Mental Health Conditions**. CHA has concerns about the bill as drafted. We offer the following recommendations and suggestions for improvements to the bill.

Connecticut hospitals continue to meet the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and are now facing new challenges of treating sicker patients than they saw before the pandemic, with a dedicated but smaller workforce who are exemplary but exhausted. They are also experiencing significant financial hardships brought on by record inflation. Through it all, hospitals have been steadfast, providing high-quality care for everyone who walks through their doors, regardless of ability to pay.

CHA supports the language in Section 1 at lines 10-12 that would require an insurer, at least annually and in writing, to disclose their process by which an insured's treating healthcare provider may request an override of the use of any step therapy drug regimen. We object to the language in lines 12-15 that would require the healthcare provider to display such information in a conspicuous and prominent location, including their Internet website. CHA suggests that this disclosure requirement be removed from HB 6831 and replaced with a requirement that each such insurer shall, on at least an annual basis, send information regarding their particular override process for step therapy directly to their insureds. We believe that this approach will more effectively accomplish the goal of disseminating information about an insurer's step therapy override program.

Section 2 of HB 6831 would establish a task force to study data collection efforts regarding step therapy. CHA asks that this section be amended to specify that the task force shall include representatives of both CHA, and individuals who are currently working in a Connecticut hospital and who are engaged in the delivery of care for mental health conditions that may include the use of step therapy.

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