



**TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
Monday, March 6, 2023**

**SB 1077, An Act Concerning The Acceptance By Physicians Of Patients
Who Are Medicaid Recipients**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 1077, An Act Concerning The Acceptance By Physicians Of Patients Who Are Medicaid Recipients**. CHA opposes this 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.

SB 1077 would establish a working group to evaluate existing barriers to physicians accepting as a patient a person who is a Medicaid recipient and recommend methods to eliminating such barriers. We believe that unequal access to physicians' services is a significant problem in Connecticut, one which directly impacts Medicaid patients' ability to obtain timely, effective treatment for their health conditions. This is of particular concern in light of the disproportionate prevalence of chronic conditions among persons of low income. Hospitals and health systems request representation on this work group in light of the fact that a substantial portion of the physician community is employed by hospitals and also depend on access to hospital inpatient and outpatient settings to perform procedures on their Medicaid patients.

CHA supports a variety of ways to improve the medical malpractice environment in Connecticut for physicians and other practitioners, including limits to liability but we do not believe that the limitation on liability should be based on a patient's health insurance status.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

For additional information, contact CHA Government Relations at (203) 294-7310.