



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

**SB 1159, An Act Concerning Pharmacy Benefits Managers And Drug Affordability
And Transparency**

HB 6830, An Act Establishing A Prescription Drug Affordability Board

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 1159, An Act Concerning Pharmacy Benefits Managers And Drug Affordability And Transparency**, and **HB 6830, An Act Establishing A Prescription Drug Affordability Board**. CHA supports these bills.

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.

Section 3 of SB 1159 and Section 1 of HB 6830 both establish a Prescription Drug Affordability Board (Board) administered through the Office of Policy and Management. The Board will conduct annual reviews of Connecticut's prescription drug product usage and identify any prescription drug products that may create affordability challenges for the healthcare system. The Board will also annually submit a report to the legislature addressing the results of the annual review, price trends for prescription drug products in Connecticut, and include any recommendations the Board may have on legislation needed to make prescription drug products more affordable.

The cost of prescription drugs is a critically important issue that affects the entire healthcare continuum. Given the significance of what the Board will address and its impact on hospitals, **CHA respectfully requests appointment to the Board to represent hospitals**. We appreciate your consideration of our request and look forward to working on these issues that impact providers and patients.

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