



**TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE
February 7, 2023**

**SB 80, An Act Concerning The Shortage Of Certain Drugs
Prescribed To Treat Type II Diabetes**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 80, An Act Concerning The Shortage Of Certain Drugs Prescribed To Treat Type II Diabetes**. CHA expresses concerns with the bill as drafted.

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 80 seeks to prohibit pharmacists from filling ***legal and valid prescriptions*** of licensed healthcare practitioners – specifically for dulaglutide and semaglutide – unless the involved patients are being treated for diabetes. We understand the intent of this bill is to help diabetic patients with a supply chain issue. We are also aware of media reports indicating that the prescribing of these specific drugs for uses that are not diabetes related may be exacerbating supply issues and potentially causing drug shortages.

However, legislation that interferes with the prescriber-patient relationship in this manner is not the right solution for managing short-term supply disruptions. It is particularly important at this critical juncture in the national debate on access to care and patient choice that we do not create unnecessary issues affecting a provider's prescribing authority or start down a path where a pharmacy questions a legal and valid prescription for reasons other than patient safety.

Directing pharmacists to override a practitioner's legal and valid prescription in this manner is also inconsistent with Connecticut laws on prescribing and oversight of licensed providers. If providers are using their prescribing authority inappropriately, the Department of Public

Health, the Connecticut Medical Examining Board, the Board of Examiners for Nursing, and other designated oversight authorities have the powers and processes to review and limit those activities. The bill while well-intentioned, is not the right solution for managing drug shortages.

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