



**TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
Thursday, March 14, 2024**

HB 5427, An Act Concerning Nonemergency Medical Transportation

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **HB 5427, An Act Concerning Nonemergency Medical Transportation**. CHA raises the following concerns with the bill as drafted.

Connecticut hospitals are critical to their communities. They are confronting the challenges posed by a post-pandemic healthcare system with an exemplary healthcare workforce that continues to provide outstanding care. But challenges remain. Hospitals are treating sicker patients, it continues to be challenging to hire and retain staff, and the financial headwinds are grave. Through it all, hospitals are steadfast, providing high-quality 24-hour care for everyone who walks through their doors, focusing on making Connecticut's healthcare system more equitable, and driving world-class innovation right here in Connecticut.

CHA appreciates that the intent of HB 5427 may be to improve upon the existing Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) system. For the last several years, CHA has routinely worked with the designated NEMT vendor to help ensure that patient needs are met. As part of that work, CHA has encouraged the vendor to explore the use of rideshare services like Uber and Lyft to meet patient transportation needs and expand networks, especially in areas of the state with limited public transportation.

These efforts have greatly improved the availability and timeliness of transportation for patients. CHA would like to better understand the intent of requiring a commercial driver's license for NEMT drivers and, with the Committee, fully explore the impact this new requirement could have on patients who rely on this transportation to access care. CHA stands ready to work with the Committee, the state, various other stakeholders, and the contracted vendor to address issues related to NEMT and bring about changes to the system that will meet patient needs.

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