



**TESTIMONY OF  
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION  
SUBMITTED TO THE  
FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE  
Wednesday, March 6, 2024**

**SB 74, An Act Eliminating Application Review Fees And Capping Licensure Fees  
For Health Care Professionals Licensed By The Department Of Public Health**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 74, An Act Eliminating Application Review Fees And Capping Licensure Fees For Health Care Professionals Licensed By The Department Of Public Health**. CHA supports the legislation.

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.

Connecticut continues to face a shortage of healthcare workers. The shortage is broad, encompassing clinical and nonclinical positions and extending across disciplines. While healthcare workforce shortages existed pre-pandemic, the pandemic exacerbated them both by slowing the educational pipeline for skilled healthcare workers and affecting recruitment and retention. It is why an all-hands-on-deck approach is needed to address the shortages, including by reducing licensing fees.

SB 74 would eliminate application review fees and set a maximum fee of two hundred dollars for the licensure of healthcare professionals by the Department of Public Health (DPH). Connecticut needs to use every tool to address the healthcare workforce shortage. Examining and addressing every barrier ensures a comprehensive approach to supporting and growing this vital part of the state's workforce.

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