



**TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee
Tuesday, January 30, 2007**

SB 136, An Act Concerning Diversity In The Health Care Workforce

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony in support of **SB 136, An Act Concerning Diversity In The Health Care Workforce**. This bill would require public and private institutions of higher education that offer health professional programs to develop strategic plans to ensure institutional diversity and cultural competence in the healthcare workforce. Strategic plans would be required to include recruitment and retention policies for ethnic or racial minorities that ensure diversity, admission decisions based on comprehensive review of each applicant, ethnic or racial minority representation on admission committees, and annual reporting to the Board of Governors of Higher Education regarding the diversity of student enrollment in health professional programs.

CHA supports initiatives that are assistive to hospitals and other healthcare organizations in creating a healthcare workforce that better reflects the diverse communities we serve. The initiatives provided for in SB 136 are designed to promote greater diversity in the healthcare workforce and thus enhance communication and cultural understanding between caregivers and patients. These initiatives would also engage and support a broad spectrum of community members in the pursuit of positions in the healthcare field, providing opportunities for employment in excellent careers and opening up the widest net in attracting candidates for Connecticut's future healthcare workforce to meet the state's significant and growing demand for healthcare.

Thank you for consideration of our position.

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