



**TESTIMONY OF
PATRICK J. MONAHAN II
GENERAL COUNSEL AND VICE PRESIDENT,
PATIENT CARE REGULATION
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
BEFORE THE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
Thursday, March 16, 2006**

SB 647, An Act Concerning Surgical Services

My name is Pat Monahan and I am General Counsel and Vice President, Patient Care Regulation of the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA). I appreciate the opportunity to testify on behalf of CHA and its members in support of **SB 647, An Act Concerning Surgical Services**.

In recent years this General Assembly, with the support of the Department of Public Health and the Office of Health Care Access (OHCA), has had the foresight to recognize the evolving nature of healthcare delivery and has established a statutory and regulatory framework that ensures that outpatient surgical facilities are subject to the same scrutiny and regulatory oversight as hospital-based surgical facilities. CHA applauds these steps. SB 647 would take another step forward in ensuring uniform regulation and long-term access to outpatient surgical facilities by providing Connecticut's citizens with greater assurances that regardless of whether they receive care in a hospital operating room or an outpatient surgical facility, the facility has been subject to the same level of quality and regulatory oversight.

SB 647 improves existing law by ensuring that all outpatient surgical facilities, regardless of ownership structure, abide by physical plant requirements that recognize the best interests of patients. The bill also empowers OHCA to collect vital information on operational and financial aspects of outpatient surgical facilities and determine whether an entity that performs surgical services is exempt from the definition of "outpatient surgical facility."

Connecticut's existing law is premised on the right of Connecticut citizens to expect that they will receive the same level of care and quality in all outpatient settings and that the state will apply equal regulatory oversight to all such facilities, regardless of their ownership or corporate structure. SB 647 builds on that premise and CHA urges the Committee to pass this bill.

Thank you for consideration of our position.

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