



**TESTIMONY
OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
Tuesday, March 4, 2003**

**HB 6452, An Act Concerning Certificates Of Need And Repealing Hospitals' Ability
To Acquire Contiguous Land And Buildings**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony regarding **HB 6452, An Act Concerning Certificates Of Need And Repealing Hospitals' Ability To Acquire Contiguous Land And Buildings**. CHA opposes the portion of HB 6452 that repeals Section 19a-645 of the general statutes.

Section 19a-645 of the Connecticut General Statutes provides a process by which a nonprofit hospital may attempt to acquire title to land or buildings contiguous to the hospital's property for the purpose of enlarging the hospital's facilities. The statute contains a number of safeguards to ensure that a hospital's taking of any contiguous land or buildings is for a necessary and proper purpose and that the hospital adequately compensates the persons who may be required to relinquish title as a result of the process. Specifically, the statute requires a hospital to file a complaint in Connecticut Superior Court for the right to obtain title to contiguous land and buildings, but only if the hospital was unable to otherwise acquire title, and only after such hospital has received approval of the Office of Health Care Access. In addition, after a hospital begins the process in the Superior Court, the court is required to appoint a committee of three disinterested persons who must examine the premises and hear from the parties involved, and then report findings and conclusions to the court as to the necessity and propriety of the hospital's proposed enlargement of facilities, the value of the land and buildings affected, and the appropriate amount to be paid to the persons affected.

CHA submits that this statute should not be repealed. The statute provides a mechanism of last resort to facilitate appropriate hospital expansion that might be necessary in the interest of public health and safety. In instances in which that need arises, the statute includes sufficient protective safeguards.

CHA therefore requests that the Committee refrain from repealing Section 19a-645.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.