



**TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE
Monday, February 14, 2011**

SB 921, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A STATE HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGE

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony in support of **SB 921, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A STATE HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGE**.

States have a significant role to play in the implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act's health insurance market reforms. A key component of the new insurance market is the establishment and operation of an American Health Benefit Exchange for individuals and a small business health options program Exchange for small business groups in each state.

The goals of Exchanges are to reduce the number of individuals without health insurance coverage and to provide a state-level market mechanism to improve access and coverage for individuals and small groups. Robust exchanges will provide individuals the most choices from which to select a healthcare plan that is best for them and their families.

Each state must engage in planning and implementation of the Exchanges so that they are operational on January 1, 2014. Before January 1, 2014 the Department of Health and Human Services will issue guidance to establish standards for the operation of the Exchanges that will include: establishing certification criteria and marketing requirements for qualified health plans; defining the essential benefits package; ensuring that qualified health plans are accredited on clinical quality and other measures; developing a system that will rate qualified health plans relative to quality and prices; and determining the enrollment periods.

CHA supports SB 921 and the creation of robust Exchanges that will have a dramatic impact on healthcare and hospitals in Connecticut. We would like to assist and provide the input of Connecticut hospitals in the development of the Exchanges, and as such, **CHA would respectfully request that SB 921 be amended to provide a representative from CHA on the Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange.**

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

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