



**TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
Friday, March 15, 2013**

SB 991, An Act Concerning An Advisory Council On Palliative Care

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 991, An Act Concerning An Advisory Council On Palliative Care**. CHA supports this bill and respectfully requests that it be amended to increase the Advisory Council by one person, with dedicated membership to include both hospital and nursing home representatives.

Among other provisions, SB 991 seeks to improve quality of care and delivery of patient-centered and family-focused care in Connecticut by establishing a state Palliative Care Advisory Council within the Department of Public Health. The Council is tasked with analyzing existing policies and practices related to palliative care in Connecticut and advising the Department on palliative care issues, with the goal of improving quality of life for those with serious or chronic illnesses. Connecticut hospitals play an important role in the delivery of care at the end of one's life and, because of this important role, we believe dedicated hospital representation on the Advisory Board is prudent and warranted. Specifically, we request that Section 1(b) (2) of the bill be amended as such:

(2) Six appointed by the Commissioner of Public Health, one each who shall be a licensed healthcare provider with experience or expertise in the provision of: (A) inpatient palliative care in a hospital; (B) inpatient palliative care in a nursing home facility; (C) palliative care in the patient's home or a community setting; (D) pediatric palliative care; (E) palliative care for young adults; and (F) palliative care for adults or elderly persons;

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

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