



**TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
Monday, March 17, 2014**

HB 5528, An Act Concerning Essential Public Health Services

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony in support of **HB 5528, An Act Concerning Essential Public Health Services**.

Connecticut hospitals are committed to providing safe, equitable, high-quality care. The benefits of hospitals extend well beyond their walls, as they strive to improve the health of communities.

CHA and its member hospitals are working in partnership with the Connecticut Association of Directors of Health, local health directors, and other stakeholders within the state, to assess community health needs and identify ways to work together in the promotion of health and achievement of health improvement goals for Connecticut's communities.

HB 5528 promotes the modernization of Connecticut public health law to reflect the ten essential services that are nationally recognized as a framework to guide the work of public health agencies. The proposed framework clarifies the role of public health within the larger healthcare system, increases the ease of application for national public health department accreditation, positively positions agencies for access to federal grant funding, and provides flexibility to towns to promote public health in a way that best meets the needs of the local population served.

We believe that updating public health law to reflect the ten essential services of public health will support public health agencies in the state to further their mission and will serve to advance health promotion and health improvement efforts.

Thank you for your consideration of our position. For additional information, contact CHA Government Relations at (203) 294-7310.