



**TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2015**

**HB 5913, An Act Concerning Persons Who Decontaminate Reusable
Medical Instruments Or Devices**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **HB 5913, An Act Concerning Persons Who Decontaminate Reusable Medical Instruments Or Devices**.

Connecticut hospitals treat everyone who comes through their doors 24 hours a day, regardless of ability to pay.

Before commenting on the bill, it's important to point out that this is a time of unprecedented change in healthcare, and Connecticut hospitals are leading the charge to transform the way care is provided. They are focused on providing safe, accessible, equitable, affordable, patient-centered care for all, and they are finding innovative solutions to integrate and coordinate care to better serve their patients and communities.

Connecticut hospitals are committed to initiatives that improve access to safe, equitable, high-quality care. They are ensuring that safety is reinforced as the most important focus—the foundation on which all hospital work is done. Connecticut hospitals launched the first statewide initiative in the country to become high reliability organizations, creating cultures with a relentless focus on safety and a goal to eliminate all preventable harm. This program is saving lives every day.

HB 5193 seeks to create a new category of statutory recognition for healthcare workers who decontaminate, inspect, assemble, or package and sterilize reusable medical instruments and devices – often called “central service technicians.” During the 2014 Legislative Session, CHA worked with representatives of the International Association of Healthcare Central Service Material Management to draft legislative language that would create statutory recognition for central service technicians that establishes credentialing standards and continuing education requirements, and recognizes the individuals currently serving as central service technicians. In addition, it contains key provisions that recognize the variety of instruments and devices used in hospitals to ensure that the health and safety of patients is always protected.

If the Committee decides to take action on HB 5193, CHA respectfully requests that the Committee use the attached language developed during the 2014 Legislative Session.

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



General Assembly

"AN ACT CONCERNING PERSONS WHO DECONTAMINATE REUSABLE MEDICAL INSTRUMENTS OR DEVICES."

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (NEW) (**Effective January 1, 2016**) (a) As used in this
4 section:

5 (1) "Central service technician" means a person who
6 decontaminates, inspects, assembles, packages and sterilizes reusable
7 medical instruments or devices in a health care facility, whether such
8 person is employed by the health care facility or provides services
9 pursuant to a contract with the health care facility, and who (A) has
10 successfully passed a nationally accredited central service exam for
11 central service technicians, and (B) holds and maintains one of the
12 following credentials: (i) A certified registered central service
13 technician credential administered by the International Association of
14 Healthcare Central Service Materiel Management, (ii) a certified sterile

15 processing and distribution technician credential administered by the
16 Certification Board for Sterile Processing and Distribution, Inc., or (iii)
17 a substantially equivalent credential, or (C) was employed or
18 otherwise contracted for services as a central service technician in a
19 health care facility before **January 1, 2016**;

20 (2) "Health care facility" means an outpatient surgical facility, as
21 defined in section 19a-493b of the general statutes, or a hospital, as
22 defined in section **19a-490b** of the general statutes, but does not include
23 a chronic disease hospital as defined by section 19a-550 of the general
24 statutes;

25 (3) "Health care provider" means a person or organization that
26 provides health care services and is licensed in accordance with title 20
27 of the general statutes; and

28 (4) "Central service department" means a department within a
29 health care facility that processes, issues, and controls medical
30 supplies, devices, and equipment, both sterile and nonsterile, for
31 patient care areas of a health care facility.

32 (b) Unless otherwise permitted pursuant to this section, no person
33 shall practice as a central service technician unless such person meets
34 the requirements detailed in subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this
35 section.

36 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this section,
37 a person who is hired or contracts for services as a central service
38 technician in a health care facility on or after **January 1, 2016**, but does
39 not otherwise meet the requirements detailed in subdivision (1) of
40 subsection (a) of this section may perform the functions of a central
41 service technician, provided he or she obtains a certified registered
42 central service technician credential administered by the International
43 Association of Healthcare Central Service Materiel Management or a
44 certified sterile processing and distribution technician credential
45 administered by the Certification Board of Sterile Processing and

46 Distribution, Inc., not later than two years after such person's date of
47 hire or contracting for services with the healthcare facility.

48 (d) A central service technician shall complete a minimum of ten
49 hours of continuing education annually. The continuing education
50 shall be in areas related to the functions of a central service technician.

51 (e) A health care facility shall, upon the written request of a central
52 service technician, verify, in writing, the central service technician's
53 dates of employment or the contract period during which the central
54 service technician provided services to the health care facility.

55 (f) Nothing in this section shall prohibit the following persons from
56 performing the tasks or functions of a central service technician: (1) A
57 health care provider, (2) a student or intern performing the functions
58 of a central service technician under the direct supervision of a health
59 care provider as part of the student's or intern's training or internship,
60 or (3) a person who does not work in a central service department in a
61 health care facility and has been specially trained and determined
62 competent, based on standards set by a health care facility's infection
63 prevention or control committee, acting in consultation with a central
64 service technician certified in accordance with subdivision (1) of
65 subsection (a) of this section, to decontaminate or sterilize reusable
66 medical equipment, instruments or devices, in a manner that meets
67 applicable manufacturer's instructions and standards.

68 (g) A health care facility shall retain a list of persons determined
69 competent under subsection (f) of this section. Such list shall include
70 job titles for such persons. A person determined competent pursuant
71 to subsection (f) of this section shall annually complete a minimum of
72 ten hours of continuing education in areas related to infection control
73 and the decontamination and sterilization of reusable medical
74 equipment, instruments and devices."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	January 1, 2016	New section
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