



**TESTIMONY OF  
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE  
Friday, February 17, 2017**

**SB 444, An Act Requiring The Health Care Cabinet To Study Establishing A Health Care Cost Growth Target And Report On Total Statewide Health Care Spending**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 444, An Act Requiring The Health Care Cabinet To Study Establishing A Health Care Cost Growth Target And Report On Total Statewide Health Care Spending**.

Before commenting on the bill, it's important to point out that Connecticut hospitals provide high quality care for everyone, regardless of ability to pay. Connecticut hospitals are finding innovative solutions to integrate and coordinate care to better serve patients and communities, as well as achieve health equity. These dynamic, complex organizations are working to build a healthier Connecticut. That means building a healthy economy, community, and healthcare system. By investing in the future of Connecticut's healthcare and hospitals, rather than continuing to cut away at them, we will strengthen our economy, put communities to work, and deliver affordable care that Connecticut families deserve.

SB 444 requires the Health Care Cabinet to study methods of establishing a healthcare cost growth target and to monitor and report on total statewide healthcare spending.

For the last year, the Health Care Cabinet has undertaken a review of different ways to control healthcare costs. After significant study and analysis, the Health Care Cabinet developed seven recommendations, one of which was for the Cabinet to create a Health Care Cabinet Working Group to recommend how to define and best implement a healthcare cost growth target. This recommendation would result in the creation of a multi-stakeholder work group that includes hospitals, and would require studying the methodology used by other states that have adopted or implemented a state-level cost growth target, including their relative public and private reimbursement environments.

We believe that we should first fix the deficient reimbursement environment in Connecticut, as well as address the negative impact on hospitals of the hospital tax, before we can implement a healthcare cost growth target.

We support the work, and the collaborative culture, of the Health Care Cabinet as it analyzes and addresses a multitude of healthcare issues, including the feasibility of enacting a healthcare cost growth target.

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