



**TESTIMONY SUBMITTED
TO THE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
Tuesday, February 7, 2017**

**SB 773, An Act Concerning Advance Notice By The Department Of Social Services
Of Guidelines And Bulletins**

We, the Connecticut Hospital Association, the Connecticut Association for Healthcare at Home, the Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities, the Connecticut State Medical Society, and LeadingAge Connecticut, appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in on SB 773, *An Act Concerning Advance Notice By The Department Of Social Services Of Guidelines And Bulletins*.

SB 773 requires the Department of Social Services to, not later than sixty days prior to disseminating program guidelines or bulletins, submit such guidelines and bulletins to the Human Services Committee.

As our healthcare system continues to go through significant transformation, and as we all strive to improve access, quality, and the affordability of care, we believe that working together in partnership with the state is vitally important. This partnership will be more important than ever in the coming months as the federal government is poised to make dramatic changes to the Affordable Care Act, as well as the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

SB 773 will provide those subject to the program guidelines or bulletins, as well as the Human Services Committee, with the necessary time to review, provide comment, and implement any program modifications. Recent experience has not offered stakeholders this opportunity, as program bulletins and notices have been released to providers with very little notice or opportunity for input. Rather than fostering partnership, these experiences have been both counterproductive and disheartening. Therefore we support this proposal, which we believe will move us in a positive and productive direction.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.