



**TESTIMONY OF  
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION  
SUBMITTED TO THE  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE  
Friday, March 16, 2018**

**HB 5290, An Act Concerning The Office Of Health Strategy**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **HB 5290, An Act Concerning The Office Of Health Strategy**. CHA supports HB 5290.

Before commenting on the bill, it's important to point out that Connecticut hospitals provide high quality care for everyone, regardless of their ability to pay. Connecticut hospitals are dynamic, complex organizations that are continually working to find innovative ways to better serve patients and communities and build a healthier Connecticut. By investing in the future of Connecticut's hospitals, we will strengthen our healthcare system and our economy, put communities to work, and deliver affordable care that Connecticut families deserve.

HB 5290 makes statutory changes to implement the establishment of the Office of Health Strategy (OHS). CHA looks forward to working with OHS as it begins its stated mission to "implement comprehensive, data driven strategies that promote equal access to high quality health care, control costs and ensure better health for the people of Connecticut."

Today, Connecticut hospitals pay an assessment that funds core operations of the Office of Health Care Access (OHCA). OHCA is being migrated to the new Health Systems Planning Unit, which will be overseen by OHS. CHA asks that OHS, this Committee, and the Legislature remain vigilant to ensure that other functions of OHS are not moved into the Health Systems Planning Unit in a way that would subject hospitals to a higher and unfair assessment.

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