



**TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN
Tuesday, March 6, 2018**

SB 325, An Act Concerning Maternal Choice In The Event Of Stillbirth

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 325, An Act Concerning Maternal Choice In The Event Of Stillbirth**. CHA opposes the bill, as written.

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. They are developing integrated delivery networks with physicians, services, and technology to make sure patients receive high quality, coordinated, cost-effective, patient focused, and equitable care. 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.

SB 325 deals with the emotional and sensitive topic of stillborn births. CHA appreciates the need to ensure that there are clear communications and processes for families who, sadly, are forced to contend with such circumstances. But the bill as drafted is not fully coordinated with existing laws relating to burial of human remains, including fetal remains and stillborn births. There are various operational issues and implementation steps about how stillborn remains are laid to rest. There needs to be alignment between these existing laws and the proposed mandate for a specific and detailed communication effort to the family.

To ensure that the bill achieves its intended result, and to avoid the unintended outcome of creating any confusion or misalignment with existing laws, we ask that the Department of Public Health (DPH) review the issue thoroughly with input from families, hospitals, clinicians, midwives, funeral directors, mental health and obstetrics professionals, and any other engaged stakeholders DPH thinks appropriate, so that any notification system put in place achieves the goals of the bill in a patient-centered way, while properly incorporating legal requirements and steps that already exist.

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