



**TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
Monday, March 25, 2019**

SB 859, An Act Concerning Community Health Workers

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 859, An Act Concerning Community Health Workers**. CHA supports the bill.

Before commenting on the bill, it's important to point out that Connecticut hospitals and health systems provide high quality care for everyone, regardless of their ability to pay. They do more than treat illness and injury. They build a healthier Connecticut by improving community health, managing chronic illness, expanding access to primary care, preparing for emergencies, and addressing social determinants of health. 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.

As the healthcare landscape changes, it has become clear that community health workers are becoming an essential component of any care delivery model. Community health workers help to improve the quality and cultural sensitivity of care being delivered and assist in addressing the social determinants of health. The establishment of a certification program will ensure that minimum competencies will be in place for those serving in this important role so that the goals to reduce racial, ethnic, gender, and socioeconomic health disparities may be met.

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