



**TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
Monday, March 9, 2020**

SB 243, An Act Prohibiting An Unauthorized Pelvic Examination On A Female Patient Who Is Under Deep Sedation Or Anesthesia Or Unconscious

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 243, An Act Prohibiting An Unauthorized Pelvic Examination On A Female Patient Who Is Under Deep Sedation Or Anesthesia Or Unconscious**. CHA opposes the bill as written.

CHA supports the concept that pelvic exams should not be performed without a valid clinical purpose, and consent should be obtained when possible. But the bill as written could unintentionally interfere with clinicians performing appropriate medical examinations or procedures.

SB 243 would prohibit physicians and medical students from performing a pelvic exam on a female patient who is under deep sedation or anesthesia, or unconscious, unless: the patient or their legal representative gives informed consent; the exam is within the scope of the planned surgical procedure or diagnostic exam; or, in the case of an unconscious patient, the pelvic examination is required for diagnostic purposes.

Specifically, the bill fails to expressly consider: emergencies, including when a woman may be unconscious prior to arrival at a hospital and needs treatment (as the bill only provides an exception for diagnostic purposes); unexpected developments during surgery, procedures, or labor; and necessary examinations to assess evolving clinical issues or provide treatment.

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