



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

**SB 74, An Act Prohibiting Female Genital Mutilation**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 74, An Act Prohibiting Female Genital Mutilation**.

Before commenting on this bill, it is important to point out that Connecticut hospitals and health systems provide high quality care for everyone, regardless of their ability to pay, and work to improve the health of those who live in our communities. Supporting Connecticut's hospitals strengthens our healthcare system and our economy.

SB 74 establishes a new criminal penalty for anyone who performs female genital mutilation. The definition of female genital mutilation in SB 74 likely covers many appropriate clinical procedures, subjecting physicians to this newly established Class D felony.

CHA supports the concept of prohibiting female genital mutilation, particularly when it is forced upon young women and girls and has no medical value. But CHA cannot support SB 74 as written.

SB 74 would prohibit critical clinical practices and procedures and interfere with access to legitimate healthcare services.

The bill, as drafted, is broader than simply prohibiting forced procedures that are a matter of custom or ritual. The language of SB 74 also would prohibit procedures that a woman feels are necessary for her health or well-being.

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