



**TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
Thursday, February 24, 2022**

**HB 5037, An Act Adjusting The State Budget For The
Biennium Ending June 30, 2023**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **HB 5037, An Act Adjusting The State Budget For The Biennium Ending June 30, 2023**. CHA's comments will focus on tobacco control funding.

Since early 2020, hospitals and health systems have been at the center of Connecticut's response to the COVID-19 public health emergency, acting as a vital partner with the state and our communities. Hospitals expanded critical care capacity, procured essential equipment and supplies, and stood up countless community COVID-19 testing locations. Hospitals have been an essential component of the statewide vaccine distribution plan including efforts to reach and serve historically under-resourced communities disproportionately affected by the virus. Through it all, hospitals and health systems have continued to provide high-quality care for everyone, regardless of ability to pay. This tireless commitment to the COVID-19 response confirms the value of strong hospitals in Connecticut's public health infrastructure and the well-being of our communities and reinforces the need for a strong partnership between the state and hospitals.

CHA supports strong tobacco-control measures, whether through municipal ordinances, workplace policies, or state and federal laws. On a daily basis, caregivers in Connecticut hospitals see firsthand the impact of tobacco-related disease and illness and, because of this, we respectfully request the Appropriations Committee invest significant funding for tobacco control initiatives and programs.

CHA urges the Appropriations Committee to invest in tobacco control measures following the latest state-specific Centers for Disease Control (CDC) evidence-based recommendations to prevent and reduce tobacco use. Elements of CDC's best-in-practice tobacco control recommendations include initiatives and programs focused on state and community interventions; health communication interventions; cessation interventions; surveillance and evaluation and; infrastructure, administration, and management.

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