



**TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
Wednesday, March 9, 2022**

HB 5260, An Act Establishing A Rare Disease Council

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **HB 5260, An Act Establishing A Rare Disease Council**. CHA supports the bill and respectfully requests that the language related to the Governor’s appointment be clarified.

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.

HB 5260 would establish a rare disease advisory council to advise and make recommendations to the Department of Public Health and other state agencies regarding the needs of persons in the state living with a rare disease.

CHA supports this bill, but respectfully requests clarifying language related to one of the Governor’s appointments. Specifically, CHA requests that “representative of an association of hospitals in the state or an administrator of a hospital that provides health care to persons living with a rare disease,” (lines 50-52) be stricken and replaced with the following: “representative of the Connecticut Hospital Association or its designee,”

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