



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

**HB 5273, An Act Establishing A State-Wide Stroke Registry**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **HB 5273, An Act Establishing A State-Wide Stroke Registry**. CHA opposes this bill as drafted.

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 5273 would establish a statewide stroke registry. While CHA supports the goal of the bill, which seeks to establish a registry for the purpose of continuous quality improvement in the care of stroke patients, we would like to highlight two provisions that we oppose.

First, HB 5273 requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to use a specific entity's stroke registry data platform and data metrics. In general, quality improvement in healthcare is an ever-evolving process, employing new modes and methods, which are based on the newest proven scientific discoveries and technologies. Putting into statute a specific data platform as the required platform and metrics collection does not provide DPH with the needed flexibility to ensure the quality improvement process, in general, and to improving stroke care, specifically.

Should the committee move forward with the bill, we recommend the following modifications:

Strike lines 3-6 inclusive.

In line 11, insert a period after "registry" and strike ", as determined"

Strike lines 12-14, inclusive, and insert the following in lieu thereof:

“The Department of Public Health, in collaboration with the state’s hospitals, shall conduct a periodic review of nationally recognized best standards and practices to determine data metrics to be used in said registry.”

Second, HB 5273 would create a situation in which DPH would take over the reporting work of a stroke center, and then impose civil monetary penalties and fees. Further, the bill authorizes DPH to request that the Attorney General take enforcement actions against hospitals for noncompliance with provisions of the bill. For a number of years leading up to and including the last two years in response to the pandemic, Connecticut hospitals have worked in collaboration with various state and federal government agencies on a wide range of programs, including quality improvement initiatives related to patient care. Imposition of civil penalties as drafted in HB 5273 is counterproductive to the collaborative nature of hospitals’ relationship with the state and fosters a punitive environment, instead of a partnership focused on improving the quality of stroke care.

CHA welcomes the opportunity to work with the committee should there be a desire to move this bill forward.

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