



**TESTIMONY OF  
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION  
SUBMITTED TO THE  
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
Friday, February 25, 2022**

**SB 118, An Act Concerning The Use Of Certain Polystyrene Products**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 118, An Act Concerning The Use Of Certain Polystyrene Products**.

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.

While CHA and its members are supportive of the goals of the bill, we respectfully ask for two modifications.

First, we would like to see a provision included that takes into account any future disruptions to supply chains. During the recent pandemic, hospitals and other providers faced significant supply chain disruptions which made the availability of these types of products very limited, forcing providers to revert back to use of alternative supplies. The law should include a legal mechanism that allows for that flexibility.

Second, we respectfully ask that the definition of restaurant include an exemption for the use of these products in patient care settings. At times, the health conditions of patients warrant the use of a particular product or product type, necessitating flexibility to better meet patient needs.

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