



**TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
Wednesday, February 15, 2023**

HB 6606, An Act Concerning The Use Of Certain Products Made From Polystyrene

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **HB 6606, An Act Concerning The Use Of Certain Products Made From Polystyrene.**

Connecticut hospitals continue to meet the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and are now facing new challenges of treating sicker patients than they saw before the pandemic, with a dedicated but smaller workforce who are exemplary but exhausted. They are also experiencing significant financial hardships brought on by record inflation. Through it all, hospitals have been steadfast, providing high-quality care for everyone who walks through their doors, regardless of ability to pay.

CHA and its members are supportive of the goals of the bill. We are grateful for the inclusion in the bill of Section 2(h), which indicates that the provisions prohibiting the use of certain polystyrene food containers by restaurants shall not be construed to apply to any patient care unit in a hospital or rehabilitation facility.

In order to further clarify the provisions of this bill, and to avoid any confusion relating to its interpretation, we respectfully ask the committee to consider revising Section 2(h) as follows:

*(h) The provisions of subsection (b) of this section shall not be construed to apply to any patient care unit in a hospital or rehabilitation facility, **including a chronic disease hospital.***

By including this phrase in the bill, you will be making it clear that Connecticut's long-term acute and chronic care hospitals will be included within the scope of this exception, along with other hospitals and rehabilitation facilities.

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