

**TESTIMONY OF  
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION  
SUBMITTED TO THE  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE  
Wednesday, March 22, 2023**

**HB 6894, An Act Concerning Certificates Of Need**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **HB 6894, An Act Concerning Certificates Of Need**.

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.

HB 6894 requires the Office of Health Strategy (OHS) to examine whether any portions of the Certificate of Need (CON) program process may be streamlined or expedited for certain categories of proposed projects to ensure that healthcare facilities may complete such projects within a reasonable period of time.

CHA supports this bill but urges the Committee to make other desperately needed changes to the CON program. Legislative attention should be focused on efforts to improve and speed up the process, remove unnecessary costs, and reduce the regulatory burden on hospitals and healthcare systems.

As such, CHA urges the Committee to add provisions to the bill that will:

- Tighten the timelines and deadlines applicable to OHS processes (and activities of the Office's CON unit) throughout the CON process to improve usefulness and effectiveness of CON oversight
- Expand the imaging modalities that may be replaced without going through the full CON process
- Prohibit OHS from applying the cost growth benchmarks to CON
- Ensure all entities providing services or conducting activities governed by the CON process are held to the same standards
- Require OHS to provide technical assistance about the CON process and requirements as a way to reduce adding unnecessary healthcare costs to the system

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