



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

HB 6913, An Act Concerning Opioids

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **HB 6913, An Act Concerning Opioids**. CHA supports the goals of the bill, but asks the committee to clarify certain provisions of the bill.

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.

Section 1 of the bill would require substance abuse treatment facilities to comply with new record retention requirements and to engage in certain designated after-care activities. This section would apply to a specific licensure category found in the General Statutes at section 19a-490 called “substance abuse treatment facility.” Because there are a variety of license types delineated in section 19a-490, and in order to avoid confusion, we ask that the language of this section of the bill be clarified to confirm that these requirements shall be specifically applicable to “substance abuse treatment facilities” and not to other types of licensed healthcare facilities.

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