



**TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE
Tuesday, January 31, 2023**

SB 905, An Act Concerning Alcoholic Liquor And Tobacco Bars

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 905, An Act Concerning Alcoholic Liquor And Tobacco Bars**. CHA does not support attempts to create or expand exemptions to the state's clean indoor air laws and as such, opposes SB 905.

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.

Sections 18 and 19 of SB 905 would expand the exemptions to the state's clean indoor air laws by allowing entry of new tobacco bars and allowing existing tobacco bars to expand or change location.

CHA supports strong tobacco control measures, whether through municipal ordinances, workplace policies, or state and federal laws. On a daily basis, caregivers in Connecticut hospitals see firsthand the impact of tobacco-related disease and illness. Any attempt to weaken the state's clean indoor air laws run contrary to the work hospitals do to protect and enhance the public's health.

As a state that has long been a leader in protecting the public's health by promoting clean indoor air, we urge the committee to make no changes to the current law related to this important health matter.

With respect to section 2, we would like to work with the Committee to craft language that clarifies that the provisions of section 2 do not apply to charitable silent auctions that include beer, spirits, and wine.

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