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

SB 955, An Act Concerning Anatomical Gifts

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 955, An Act Concerning Anatomical Gifts.** CHA opposes this 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.

SB 955 would require hospitals to provide an annual report to the Commissioner of Public Health on the number of instances that anatomical gifts were not made due to an amendment or revocation of said gift. CHA is concerned that the collection of these data would be overly burdensome on the hospital caregivers without any clearly defined objective for the use of data to increase organ and tissue donations.

As a member of the Governor's Advisory Council on Organ and Tissue Donation Education and Awareness, CHA has long worked with the state's transplant centers, hospitals, the Department of Public Health, the Department of Motor Vehicles, the state's Organ Procurement Organization, Donate Life Connecticut, and other stakeholders on issues related to organ donation awareness and education.

We support continued efforts to promote the importance of organ and tissue donations, but do not believe requiring the collection of certain data by hospitals would increase the number of organs available for donation and ask the Committee to take no further action on this bill.

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