



**TESTIMONY OF  
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION  
SUBMITTED TO THE  
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
Tuesday, February 28, 2023**

**SB 978, An Act Concerning Expansion Of The Covered Connecticut Program**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 978, An Act Concerning Expansion Of The Covered Connecticut Program**. CHA supports 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.

We appreciate that SB 978 builds on the important investments that have already been made to expand access to health insurance coverage. As we have consistently argued in the past, as we consider legislation to expand state-operated and subsidized health insurance options, we should do so while avoiding policies that would undermine the commercial health insurance market.

We support the legislation's expansion of eligibility in the Covered Connecticut program to 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL). This modest expansion, from 175% FPL, would ensure that low-income Connecticut residents have access to no-cost commercial coverage that provides robust benefits.

We appreciate the interest in further expansion of the Covered Connecticut program for those making more than 200% FPL but less than 300% FPL. We support the requirement that the Department of Social Services (DSS) develop a plan for additional review by the legislature prior to moving forward with such expansion. As consideration is given to a broader expansion of the state-backed plan, it is important that a number of factors be considered:

- The impact on the individual health insurance market and consumer options
- The potential impact on employer-sponsored health insurance
- The benefits and cost-sharing associated with the plan

We support the legislature's continued commitment to ensuring Connecticut residents have access to robust, affordable health insurance and we are eager to continue to add our voice to that work.

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