



**TESTIMONY OF  
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION  
SUBMITTED TO THE  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON AGING  
Thursday, February 23, 2006**

**HB 5090, An Act Concerning Rates For Nursing Pool Services  
Provided To Health Care Institutions**

The Connecticut Hospital Association appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony on **HB 5090, An Act Concerning Rates For Nursing Pool Services Provided To Health Care Institutions**. HB 5090 requires nursing pools in Connecticut to register annually with the Department of Social Services and regulates the rates that they may charge. It articulates procedures for registration that are to commence as of January 1, 2007 and allows the Commissioner of Social Services to adopt regulations for implementation.

As major healthcare providers and employers of nursing services staff within the state, Connecticut's hospitals utilize supplementary resources as necessary to respond to variances in staffing requirements. While the cost of supplementary staff is a significant concern for CHA and its members, and we are appreciative of efforts to ensure fair pricing, we have concerns with regard to maintaining an attractive business climate for vitally needed staffing resource agencies. According to the Health Resources and Services Administration, Connecticut is expected to experience one of most severe nursing shortages in the nation and we encourage the committee in its deliberations on HB 5090 to balance the important needs of Connecticut healthcare providers' access to supplementary nurse staffing resources now and for the future as you strive to ensure that staffing agencies charge fair prices.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

For additional information, contact CHA Government Relations at (203) 294-7310.