



**TESTIMONY
OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
Tuesday, February 4, 2003**

**SB 415, An Act Concerning A Study Of The Establishment Of A Comprehensive
Health Care Data System**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) has concerns regarding **SB 415, An Act Concerning A Study Of The Establishment Of A Comprehensive Health Care Data System**, which mandates a study regarding the development of a comprehensive healthcare data system. The data would be made available to the Department of Public Health, the Office of Health Care Access, the Department of Insurance and other relevant state agencies and the system would be overseen by a committee including members of the legislature, public and healthcare industry representatives.

Although CHA supports a coordinated approach to the healthcare data that is already collected by various state agencies, we are concerned that the healthcare data system contemplated by the bill may impose additional data collection burdens on hospitals. Connecticut hospitals already submit extensive financial, clinical, and administrative information to state agencies and additional reporting requirements would be unnecessary and burdensome. In addition, if the comprehensive healthcare data system changed the existing format for data submission by hospitals, hospitals could incur substantial expenses in complying with a new format. We respectfully suggest that the study focus on how the state can coordinate and use existing data sources more effectively.

CHA also is concerned that the bill specifies that the system would be subcontracted to a federally-funded quality improvement organization (QIO) for data collection and analysis. If the Legislature decides to undertake a study of the feasibility of developing a comprehensive healthcare data system, we respectfully suggest that an element of the study should be to determine the most effective way of creating and maintaining the system, which may not involve subcontracting to a QIO.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

CCB:pas