

**TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
Monday, March 10, 2008**

HB 5863, An Act Concerning An Umbilical Cord Blood Bank For Connecticut Residents

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to present testimony concerning **HB 5863, An Act Concerning An Umbilical Cord Blood Bank For Connecticut Residents**.

CHA supports the potential benefits associated with collecting and storing cord blood and placental tissue and supports programs that facilitate voluntary collection and storage of such blood and tissue.

Section 2 of HB 5863 requires a physician or other healthcare provider who provides healthcare services to a pregnant woman during the last trimester of her pregnancy to provide the woman with timely, relevant, and appropriate information sufficient to allow her to make an informed and voluntary choice regarding options to bank or donate umbilical cord blood following the delivery of a newborn child.

In order to ensure that every patient has access to the same and best information to assist them in making this important medical decision, we encourage the state to provide printed materials that can be used by hospitals, physicians and midwives. This can be accomplished by adding the following language in section 2:

Sec. 2. (NEW) (Effective October 1, 2008) A physician or other health care provider who provides health care services to a pregnant woman during the last trimester of her pregnancy, which health care services are directly related to her pregnancy, shall provide the woman with timely, relevant and appropriate information sufficient to allow her to make an informed and voluntary choice regarding options to bank or donate umbilical cord blood following the delivery of a newborn child. The department of public health shall provide written information to physicians and health care providers to make available to pregnant women.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

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