CONNECTICUT
HOSPITAL
ASSOCIATION

TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
Friday, March 6, 2009

HB 6391, An Act Concerning Revisions To The HIV Testing Consent Law

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony in support of **HB 6391, An Act Concerning Revisions To The HIV Testing Consent Law**.

HB 6391 modifies Connecticut's human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) testing consent law and moves toward the national recommendation by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to routinely offer HIV counseling and testing to all adults living in the United States by minimizing legal requirements.

The CDC has recommended HIV testing for all persons aged 13 to 64 years in all healthcare settings. According to the CDC, the objectives of these recommendations are to "increase HIV screening of patients, including pregnant women, in healthcare settings; foster earlier detection of HIV infection; identify and counsel persons with unrecognized HIV infection and link them to clinical and prevention services; and further reduce perinatal transmission of HIV in the United States." Under these new recommendations, signed consent would not be required and counseling with referral would be managed as it is for other serious conditions.

CHA supports HB 6391, as it moves Connecticut's HIV testing law toward the CDC recommendations.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

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