CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
Monday, March 16, 2009

HB 6678, An Act Concerning Revisions To Department Of Public Health Licensing Statutes

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony concerning **HB 6678, An Act Concerning Revisions To Department Of Public Health Licensing Statutes**. CHA opposes this bill as written, specifically with respect to Section 7 and Section 8.

Section 7 of HB 6678 would create new penalties for a provider's failure to properly report data to the state's tumor registry. CHA, and all of Connecticut's hospitals, appreciate the importance of the tumor registry program, and recognize the need for compliance, but HB 6678 would impose fines that are not commensurate with the situation, and would also penalize providers who thought they had submitted data but, due to unknown and unanticipated technical glitches, the data was not received by the Department of Public Health.

We request that you amend subsection (f) of Section 7 of HB 6678 in the following manner:

> (f) (1) Failure by a hospital, clinical laboratory or health care provider to comply with the reporting requirements prescribed in this section may result in the department electing to perform the registry services for such hospital, clinical laboratory or provider. In such case, the hospital, clinical laboratory or provider shall reimburse the department for actual expenses incurred in performing such services.
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> (2) Any hospital, clinical laboratory or health care provider that fails to comply with the provisions of this section shall be liable to a civil penalty not to exceed five hundred dollars for each failure to disclose a reportable tumor, as determined by the commissioner.
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> [(3) A hospital, clinical laboratory or health care provider that fails to report cases of cancer as required in regulations adopted pursuant to section 19a-73 by a date that is not later than six months after the date of a confirmed diagnosis shall be assessed a civil penalty not to exceed one thousand dollars per business day, for each day thereafter that the report is not submitted and ordered to comply with the terms of this subsection by the Commissioner of Public Health.]

(3) The reimbursements, expenses and civil penalties set forth in this subsection shall be assessed only after the Department provides a written notice of deficiency indicating that the provider must comply within fourteen days of receipt of such notice and the provider fails either (i) to timely comply, or (ii) to provide an explanation and remediation plan acceptable to the Department.

These changes retain the purpose of Section 7 without creating overly punitive penalties.

Section 8 of HB 6678 would require healthcare providers to have identification badges when providing direct patient care. Hospitals already have identification standards through their accreditation organizations. In order to preserve the purpose of the bill, but avoid any accidental confusion regarding the information to be listed on the badges, we request that subsection (b) of Section 8 of HB 6678 be amended in the following manner:

(b) Any health care provider who works at a health care facility and who provides direct patient care shall be required to wear an identification badge that indicates such provider's name and the type of license or certificate that the provider holds. A health care facility shall develop policies concerning the size and content of the identification badge required pursuant to this subsection, which shall be consistent with the facility's accreditation standards.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

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