CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
Friday, February 27, 2009

SB 980, An Act Concerning Certificates Of Need

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 980, An Act Concerning Certificates Of Need**. CHA supports this bill in line with the following comments.

This bill would revise various sections of Connecticut's Certificate of Need (CON) statutes. CHA fully supports the Office Health Care Access in making these changes, which are designed to reduce unnecessary administrative burdens and related costs on the healthcare system.

One section of the bill, however, contains language that could be interpreted in a manner that is not consistent with the bill's intent. Section 3 of SB 980 (which would add a new subsection (f) to Section 19a-639a) seeks to reduce the administrative burden related to relocation of certain outpatient services within a facility's existing service area. Unfortunately, the text of this section creates unintended loopholes in the CON process.

To eliminate the potential loopholes, CHA respectfully suggests the following amended language be added to the portion of SB 980's Section 3 that proposes a new subsection (f) to Section 19a-639a of the general statutes (deletions are bracketed, additions are underlined):

> (NEW) (f) Each health care facility or institution that on July 1, 2009, is providing [outpatient services, including, but not limited to,] physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, cardiac rehabilitation, occupational injury management[,] <u>or</u> occupational disease management [and company contracted services]<u>, on an outpatient basis,</u> that thereafter proposes to provide such services at an alternative location within the primary services area of the health care facility or institution, shall be exempt from the certificate of need requirements prescribed in subsection (a) of section 19a-638, as amended by this act, as relates to any such proposal to provide such services at an alternative location.

Additionally, deletion of "cineangiography equipment" from 19a-639(c), as found in Section 2 of SB 980, should be restored. Otherwise, non-institutional providers might avoid necessary oversight by the Office of Health Care Access.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

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