CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
SELECT COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN
Thursday, February 26, 2009

SB 929, An Act Concerning The Removal Of A Child Or Youth From A Hospital Or Other Health Care Facility In Certain Juvenile Matters

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 929, An Act Concerning The Removal Of A Child Or Youth From A Hospital Or Other Health Care Facility In Certain Juvenile Matters**.

SB 929 requires an evidentiary hearing before changes are made to the Department of Children and Families ("DCF") commitment status of a child who is in a healthcare facility.

As written, SB 929 would exceed its intended goal of affecting the courts' powers regarding DCF commitments, and could be used to deprive the courts of necessary emergency powers to rule on healthcare decisions for minors who happen to be in healthcare facilities – having nothing to do with DCF commitment processes. This goal can be archived by simply inserting the appropriate statutory reference in the new subsection.

Additionally, the evidentiary hearing on DCF commitment status under SB 929 is open-ended. The evidentiary hearing should be held as soon as possible to avoid children potentially being deprived of necessary care or being kept in the wrong facility, possibly for weeks, when they could instead be placed in more appropriate settings.

To ensure SB 929 is more tailored to its purpose, CHA respectfully requests that the following revisions be made:

> (NEW) (r) The court shall not [issue an order or] revoke the commitment of a child or youth <u>made pursuant to this Section 46b-129</u> thereby permitting a child or youth to be removed from a hospital or other health care facility without first holding an evidentiary hearing on the issue of such removal. <u>Any such hearing shall be held within 72 hours of a request or motion to the court.</u>

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

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