CONNECTICUT
HOSPITAL
ASSOCIATION

TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
Thursday, March 11, 2010

HB 5296, An Act Concerning The Definition Of Medical Necessity

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony in support of **HB 5296, An Act Concerning The Definition Of Medical Necessity**.

Connecticut's hospitals are among the finest in the nation. Access to the most skilled professionals, the highest quality of care, and latest technology is expected by all patients in our state, and Connecticut hospitals provide this to patients every day. Caring for all who need it, regardless of their ability to pay, 24 hours per day, seven days per week year-round, hospitals are integral to the quality of life and health in our communities.

HB 5296 would codify the definition of medically necessary (and medical necessity) within the Department of Social Services (DSS) Medicaid program in a manner that is based on generally accepted standards of medical practice, with the goal of optimizing the physical and mental health of those enrolled in the Medicaid program. The definition proposed in HB 5296 would allow healthcare professionals to prevent, identify, diagnose, treat, and rehabilitate health conditions within their professional capacities without the denial of services based on a narrow definition of medical necessity proposed by DSS.

CHA supports HB 5296 because we believe this definition of medical necessity will improve access to services and care provided to Medicaid clients, helping them lead healthy and productive lives.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

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