CONNECTICUT
HOSPITAL
ASSOCIATION

TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE
Thursday, February 18, 2010

HB 5154, An Act Including Hospital Security Officers In The Assault Of Public Safety, Emergency Medical Or Public Transit Personnel Offense

The Connecticut Hospital Association appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony in support of **HB 5154, An Act Including Hospital Security Officers In The Assault Of Public Safety, Emergency Medical Or Public Transit Personnel Offense.**

Connecticut's hospitals are located throughout the state, in areas ranging from inner cities to rural communities. What they have in common is a mission to meet local healthcare needs, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Hospital personnel provide care under conditions that are often difficult and sometimes dangerous. The passage of HB 5154, making the assault of a security officer assigned to a hospital a Class C felony, would provide an extra level of legal recourse in the event of an assault on those who are charged with keeping healthcare providers, patients, and families safe at hospitals in Connecticut.

Your support for HB 5154 will help ensure that Connecticut's hospitals remain safe for all concerned. This bill is consistent with our continual focus on quality and patient safety, and offering the best possible care. In more ways than one, the health of our communities is inextricably linked to the health of the local hospital.

In closing, we respectfully urge the committee to release HB 5154 with a favorable report. We remain available to work with you in order to move the bill to enactment during this legislative session.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

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