CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
COMMERCE COMMITTEE
Tuesday, February 21, 2012

SB 78, AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEARN HERE, LIVE HERE PROGRAM

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 78, AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEARN HERE, LIVE HERE PROGRAM.** CHA supports this bill and respectfully requests that the bill be amended to ensure all hospital-based educational programs fall within purview of the legislation.

In order for hospital-based professional educational programs to be included in the *Learn Here, Live Here Program*, we suggest that the bill be amended as follows:

> (a) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, in consultation with the Commissioner of Revenue Services and the president of the Board of Regents for Higher Education, **[may]** shall establish the Learn Here, Live Here program. Such program **[may]** shall provide an incentive for graduates of a public institution of higher education, private university or college, hospital-based occupational schools, or health care training school, in this state, who qualified as in-state students and paid the in-state tuition rate, or graduates from a regional vocational-technical school, to buy a first home in the state. Persons who graduate on or after January 1, 2014, from such institutions, universities, colleges or schools may have their income tax liability, up to a maximum of two thousand five hundred dollars annually, segregated into the Connecticut first-time homebuyers account established pursuant to section 32-4j, provided not more than one million dollars from all program participants may be so segregated in any calendar year. After a period not exceeding ten years after graduation, any amounts so segregated may be withdrawn by a participant for the purchase of a first home in the state. The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development **[may]** shall make payments in accordance with this section from said fund to the **[participant]** participants. For the purposes of this section, "health care training school" means of medical or dental school, chiropractic college, school or college of optometry, school or college of chiropody or podiatry, school or college of natureopathy, school of dental hygiene, school of physical therapy or any other school or institution giving instruction in the healing arts.

Connecticut hospitals run various healthcare education-based programs that are an important part of advancing and updating healthcare workers' educations. Inclusion of hospital-based programs in the *Learn Here, Live Here Program* will help to ensure a supply of healthcare workers to meet the ever-increasing need.

Thank you for your consideration of our position. For additional information, contact CHA Government Relations at (203) 294-7310.