CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE
Tuesday, March 6, 2012

HB 5329, An Act Concerning The Use Of Telepharmacy By Hospitals

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony regarding **HB 5329, An Act Concerning The Use Of Telepharmacy By Hospitals**. CHA supports this bill.

Public Act 11-242 (Section 50) contained a provision that permitted the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP), in consultation with the Department of Public Health, to establish a telepharmacy pilot program in one Connecticut hospital and its satellite locations. In January, DCP issued a letter of approval for the telepharmacy pilot program that is in place at Yale-New Haven Hospital. The current pilot allows for patients to receive IV care and treatment closer to home, with a pharmacist at Yale-New Haven Hospital providing real-time audio and visual review of the activities of a pharmacy technician working at the satellite location. In addition, the pharmacy technician takes photographs of the sterile products at each step of the process for real-time review and verification, as well as long-term technical storage and quality review.

HB 5329 will permit all of Connecticut's hospitals to participate in similar telepharmacy initiatives on a permanent basis, provided they meet the same quality standards outlined in the current pilot and are in compliance with DCP pharmacy regulations. CHA supports this initiative.

After consulting with DCP, CHA respectfully requests the minor technical change outlined below, which will bring further clarity to the language:

In line 45-46, replace "an appropriately licensed individual" with "a licensed pharmacist".

CHA would welcome the opportunity to work with the Department of Consumer Protection and the General Law Committee in our collective efforts to bring quality care closer patients' homes, and urges you to support HB 5329.

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