CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

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TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE
Thursday, March 15, 2012

HB 5485, An Act Concerning The Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **HB 5485, An Act Concerning The Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange.**

HB 5485 makes various changes to the duties and responsibilities of the Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange. Separately, it requires the Insurance and Real Estate Committee to select the benchmark plan for the purpose of establishing the standard for qualified health plans and health plans to be sold outside the exchange.

The goals of health insurance exchanges established under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act are to reduce the number of individuals without health insurance coverage and to provide a state-level market mechanism to improve access and coverage for individuals and small groups. Robust exchanges will provide individuals with ample choices from which to select a healthcare plan, and benefit packages in those plans that are best for them and their families.

Each state must engage in planning and implementation of the exchanges so that they are operational on January 1, 2014. The Department of Health and Human Services is in the process of issuing a series of rules and guidance criteria to establish standards for the operation of the exchanges and products offered in the exchanges.

CHA supports the creation of a robust Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange that will have a dramatic impact on healthcare and hospitals in Connecticut. We would like to assist and provide the input of Connecticut hospitals in the development of such an exchange, and as such, remain available to work through the many details of implementing healthcare reform in the state.

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