CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
Friday, March 16, 2012

SB 370, An Act Concerning Services Provided By Genetic Counselors

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 370, An Act Concerning Services Provided By Genetic Counselors**. CHA supports the general goal of the bill, but has some concerns with the bill as currently drafted.

Genetic counselors provide information and support to families who have members with birth defects or genetic disorders and to families who may be at risk for a variety of inherited conditions. These counselors identify families at risk, interpret information about the disorder, analyze inheritance patterns, analyze risks of recurrence, and review available options with the individual/family. CHA supports statutory recognition of genetic counselors, but understands that as currently drafted, the bill would result in unintended consequences that would restrict current genetic counselors from performing the vital role they play in the in the delivery services in hospitals and other settings.

CHA respectfully requests to work with the committee and interested parties as part of the process of refining the language of SB 370 to best reflect the current and anticipated future practice of genetic counseling.

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