CONNECTICUT
HOSPITAL
ASSOCIATION

TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, February 28, 2012

SB 200, An Act Concerning The Membership Of The Coordinating Advisory Board To The Department Of Emergency Services And Public Protection

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 200, An Act Concerning The Membership Of The Coordinating Advisory Board To The Department Of Emergency Services And Public Protection**. CHA supports this bill and respectfully requests that it be amended to add the President of the Connecticut Hospital Association or a designee as a member of the Coordinating Advisory Board.

Connecticut hospitals are complex organizations, open and providing services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Each day, our hospitals provide a full range of services to ensure the health and well-being of our patients and the quality of life in our communities. Yet, simultaneously, Connecticut hospitals must always be in "ready mode," anticipating and being prepared to provide emergency medical services in response to both natural and man-made disasters.

During the two most recent storms and prolonged power outages, hospitals again demonstrated the important role they play in the lives, health, and well-being of patients, community members, and employees. Hospitals across the state worked with federal, state, and local governments, emergency managers, police, fire, and other first responders to meet the emergency medical needs of the community.

Connecticut hospitals have worked collaboratively with the state's Department of Public Health to access federal grant money, allowing them to better coordinate and respond to local, regional, and statewide disasters. As a principal provider of emergency medical services, Connecticut hospitals would welcome the opportunity to participate on the Coordinating Advisory Board to assist in its mission to improve communication and cooperation, ultimately enhancing state and local government emergency response and protecting the health and well-being of Connecticut citizens.

Thus, we respectfully request that the bill be amended by adding a new subdivision (14) as follows: (14) the President of the Connecticut Hospital Association or a designee.

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