CHA CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

Written

TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
Monday, March 11, 2013

SB 900, An Act Concerning Revisions To The State Codes Of Ethics

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 900, An Act Concerning Revisions To The State Codes Of Ethics. CHA supports this bill.**

While SB 900 makes a variety of modifications to the State Codes of Ethics, this testimony will focus on Section 1 of the bill and its proposed changes to the definition of "goods or services" as it relates to gifts to the state. The newly proposed language will permit state employees to attend or participate in events, forums, or trainings that may be funded or provided by regulated entities, provided that the state employees' attendance at such events furthers the mission, action, or function of state government.

For a number of years, CHA has been collaborating with the Department of Public Health (DPH) to improve healthcare quality and safety for Connecticut's hospital patients. As you may know, DPH utilizes licensed nurses to inspect hospitals. Once a nurse becomes a DPH employee, he or she stops working in direct patient care and may only attend education or training sessions paid for by federal or state dollars. Through CHA's quality improvement efforts, we have been able to host nationally known quality leaders and speakers to provide firsthand training to hospital staff and leadership. Unfortunately, DPH staff participation in these educational programs is not permitted under the current law because the cost associated with the training is considered a gift to the state.

The new definition of goods or services in the bill would allow CHA and hospitals to host training sessions, forums, and events, both at the Association and at hospitals that could include participation by state employees. These forums would allow for the sharing of nationally recognized evidence-based quality improvement measures and practices, which is an essential part of improving care in Connecticut.

CHA welcomes the opportunity to further engage the state as a partner in improving the quality of care provided to Connecticut's residents, and urges you to support Section 1 of SB 900.

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