CONNECTICUT
HOSPITAL
ASSOCIATION

TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE
Thursday, February 7, 2013

HB 5906, An Act Concerning Prescriptions For Controlled Substances And Use Of The Connecticut Prescription Monitoring And Reporting System

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony concerning **HB 5906, An Act Concerning Prescriptions For Controlled Substances And Use Of The Connecticut Prescription Monitoring And Reporting System**. CHA is concerned that the bill as currently crafted would have unintended, detrimental consequences if certain clarifications are not made to the final version.

CHA supports the goal of HB 5906, which is to better monitor the prescribing of controlled substances, and to ultimately reduce overuse by patients and unnecessary prescribing practices by practitioners. However, HB 5906 as drafted could potentially interfere with the quality of healthcare delivery and patient access to needed medications.

The current monitoring and reporting system contains various mandates for reporting when a prescription for controlled substances is dispensed by a retail pharmacy. For appropriate reasons, the monitoring system does not currently include or involve medication orders for hospital inpatients, or patients at other facilities. Additionally, while there is mandated reporting by retail pharmacies, practitioners are not required to review the system prior to prescribing controlled substances for patients. Requiring such prior review would substantially interfere with the care delivered at facilities, including hospitals.

The Department of Consumer Protection's Drug Control Division has done an outstanding job of creating, fostering, and improving the current monitoring system. CHA believes that those efforts should continue in a planned and deliberate fashion, and CHA welcomes the opportunity to work with this Committee, the Department of Consumer Protection, and other stakeholders to ensure that the monitoring system is expanded and improved in the most efficient and reasonable manner possible, while being mindful of the need to avoid creating unwarranted barriers for patient access to appropriate treatment and care.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

For additional information, contact CHA Government Relations at (203) 294-7310.