CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE
Tuesday, March 5, 2013

HB 6406, An Act Concerning The Electronic Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony regarding **HB 6406, An Act Concerning The Electronic Prescription Drug Monitoring Program**. CHA supports the goal of HB 6406, which is to better monitor the prescribing of controlled substances, and to ultimately reduce overuse by patients and unnecessary prescribing by practitioners.

The Department of Consumer Protection 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 to patient access to appropriate treatment and care.

The current system contains various reporting mandates for 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 patients receiving care at a hospital or at other facilities, such as a surgery center. CHA respectfully requests the minor technical change at the end of Section 1, which will bring further clarity to the language around its inapplicability to hospital patients:

> "(9) The collection and reporting of prescription information in accordance with subdivisions (1) and (3) of this subsection shall not apply to controlled substance prescriptions dispensed to a patient for administration at a hospital."

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

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