CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
AGING COMMITTEE
Tuesday, March 4, 2014

SB 244, An Act Increasing Home Care Provider Rates

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 244, An Act Increasing Home Care Provider Rates.** CHA supports the bill.

Hospitals play a critical role in the health and quality of life of our communities. All of our lives have, in some way, been touched by a hospital: through the birth of a child, a life saved by prompt action in an emergency room, or the compassionate end-of-life care for someone we love. Or perhaps our son, daughter, husband, wife, or friend works for, or is a volunteer at, a Connecticut hospital.

Hospitals treat everyone who comes through their doors 24 hours a day, regardless of ability to pay. In 2012, Connecticut hospitals provided nearly $225 million in free services for those who could not afford to pay.

Connecticut hospitals are committed to initiatives that improve access to safe, equitable, high-quality care. They are ensuring that safety is reinforced as the most important focus—the foundation on which all hospital work is done. Connecticut hospitals launched the first statewide initiative in the country to become high reliability organizations, creating cultures with a relentless focus on safety and a goal to eliminate all preventable harm. This program is saving lives.

SB 244 would require a two percent increase in home care provider rates. Additionally, it would require the development of a plan to be included in the next biennial budget that would raise the rates to adequate levels based on the cost of care and require an annual indexing of the rates thereafter. CHA supports this increase. Every day, Connecticut providers are working on ways to improve and coordinate the transitions of care provided by hospitals, home care and hospice, skilled nursing facilities, and the physician community. We recognize that for patients to receive the highest quality of care, we must have a strong healthcare provider community across the continuum.

We urge the committee to support SB 244.

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