



**TESTIMONY OF  
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION  
SUBMITTED TO THE  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE  
Wednesday, March 19, 2014**

**SB 459, An Act Concerning Medical Assistants**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 459, An Act Concerning Medical Assistants**. CHA supports the concept of this bill but has concerns with it as written.

Before outlining our concerns, it's important to detail the critical role hospitals play 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.

Generations of Connecticut families have trusted Connecticut hospitals to provide care we can count on.

CHA and its member hospitals are committed to initiatives that improve access to safe, equitable, high quality care across the continuum. In concert with this commitment, CHA is supportive of legislation that permits individuals to practice to the full extent of their education and training.

The changes contemplated in SB 459 could have a significant impact on the delivery of healthcare in Connecticut. Should the Committee wish to move the bill forward, we respectfully request that we be able to work with the Committee and interested parties as part of the process of refining the language to ensure that any changes in the scope of practice reflect the education and training of a Medical Assistant.

CHA would like to request the following specific language changes to the bill:

1. Insert a definition of “direct supervision” that indicates that the supervising physician is present on the premises and available for emergencies.
2. In line 26, delete “back” and substitute the word “buttocks.”
3. In line 30, delete “reasonably believes” and substitute the words “has verified.”
4. In line 32-33, delete “(A) in an inpatient clinic, hospital emergency department or ambulatory surgical center, or (B).”
5. In line 34, after the word “in,” insert the words “an ambulatory surgical center.”

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