CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
AGING COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2015

HB 6892, An Act Concerning Hospital Training And Procedures For Patients With Suspected Dementia

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **HB 6892, An Act Concerning Hospital Training And Procedures For Patients With Suspected Dementia.**

Before commenting on the bill, it's important to point out that Connecticut hospitals treat everyone who comes through their doors 24 hours a day, regardless of ability to pay.

This is a time of unprecedented change in healthcare, and Connecticut hospitals are leading the charge to transform the way care is provided. They are focused on providing safe, accessible, equitable, affordable, patient-centered care for all, and they are finding innovative solutions to integrate and coordinate care to better serve their patients and communities.

HB 6892 would require the Department of Public Health to adopt regulations mandating hospitals to provide training on the signs and symptoms of dementia to staff who provide direct patient care. It would also require hospitals to "share" a patient's dementia diagnosis with "any other state agencies."

CHA has the following concerns about the bill and urges the Committee to ensure the regulations address two issues. First, it is not clear what level or scope of training would be required, and whether training would be necessary in all care settings. The bill sweeps in all levels of hospital care, without distinguishing the level and scope of training appropriate for the care setting (e.g., emergency, outpatient, inpatient, acute care, chronic, or long-term care). It is also unclear whether the requirement is meant to train staff members to identify dementia patients or treat them. It is not necessary to mandate training of the entire patient care staff if a dedicated part of the care team is responsible for the task of evaluating (or treating) the patient's dementia.

Second, any regulation that requires reporting of dementia diagnosis by a hospital should be clear and specific as to the trigger for reporting and the exact entities to whom the hospital must report.

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