CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2015

SB 258, An Act Concerning Infant Safe Sleep Practices

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 258, An Act Concerning Infant Safe Sleep Practices**. CHA supports the goals of SB 258, but does not think legislation is necessary at this time, since Connecticut hospitals already provide informational materials to all parents after the birth of a child at the hospital regarding recommended safe sleep practices for infants.

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.

SB 258 would require hospitals to provide informational materials regarding recommended safe sleep practices for infants, including recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), to parents after the birth of a child at the hospital.

Connecticut's hospitals already ensure that new parents receive information that includes the AAP's recommended safe sleep practices before infants are discharged from the hospital. Written materials, such as the booklets *A New Beginning, Your Personal Guide to Postpartum Care* (Moran, D. & Kallam, G.B.) and *Safe Sleep for Your Baby* (National Institutes of Health), which include critical information and AAP-recommended practices for safe sleep, are provided to parents in the postpartum unit. Prior to discharge, a registered nurse reviews and reinforces the information with parents.

CHA agrees that teaching parents how to provide a safe sleeping environment for their newborns is an important part of infant care but does not think legislation is necessary at this time.

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