CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

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

SB 857, An Act Concerning Licensure For Genetic Counselors

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 857, An Act Concerning Licensure For Genetic Counselors**. CHA supports SB 857.

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.

Genetic counselors provide information and support to families who have members with birth defects or genetic disorders and families who may be at risk for a variety of inherited conditions. These counselors identify families at risk, interpret information about disorders, analyze inheritance patterns and risks of recurrence, and review available options with the individual/family. During the 2014 Legislative Session, CHA worked with Public Health Committee leadership, genetic counselors, and other interested parties to draft legislative language that would create a scope of practice for genetic counselors that establishes credentialing standards and continuing education requirements, and recognizes the individuals currently serving as genetic counselors.

The scope of practice for genetic counselors was reviewed during the 2014 Department of Public Health scope of practice review process. CHA was pleased to participate in the Review Committee and encourages the Public Health Committee to use the findings and conclusions identified in the report, "An Act Concerning the Department of Public Health's Oversight Responsibilities Relating to the Scope of Practice Determinations for Health Care Professions: Genetic Counselors," if the Committee decides to take action on this bill.

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