



**TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, February 27, 2018**

**SB 17, An Act Promoting Fairness In Access To Information, Support
And Justice For Sexual Assault Victims**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 17, An Act Promoting Fairness In Access To Information, Support And Justice For Sexual Assault Victims**. CHA has concerns with respect to subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of Section 1 of the bill.

Before commenting on the bill, it's important to point out that Connecticut hospitals provide high quality care for everyone, regardless of their ability to pay. Connecticut hospitals are dynamic, complex organizations that are continually working to find innovative ways to better serve patients and communities and build a healthier Connecticut. They are developing integrated delivery networks with physicians, services, and technology to make sure patients receive high quality, coordinated, cost-effective, patient focused, and equitable care. By investing in the future of Connecticut's hospitals, we will strengthen our healthcare system and our economy, put communities to work, and deliver affordable care that Connecticut families deserve.

SB 17 makes changes to Connecticut's sexual assault evidence collection statutes. The proposed changes in subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of Section 1 would amend Section 19a-112a of the General Statutes to require that a **barcode** be affixed to the sexual assault evidence collection kit for tracking by the Division of Scientific Services within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection. CHA does not object to the electronic tracking of the sexual assault evidence collection kit, but respectfully requests that the statute not detail the exact type of tracking, as CHA anticipates that the preferred electronic tracking may change with advances in technology.

To accomplish this, CHA recommends that subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of Section 1 read as follows:

(c) **(1)** The commission shall design a sexual assault evidence collection kit and may annually recommend changes in the kit to the Chief State's Attorney. Each kit shall include instructions on the proper use of the kit, standardized reporting forms, standardized tests which shall be performed if the victim so consents and standardized receptacles for the collection and preservation of evidence. The commission shall

provide the kits to all health care facilities in the state at which evidence collection examinations are performed at no cost to such health care facilities. The Division of Scientific Services within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection shall: (1) implement an electronic tracking method for the kits and (2) notify health care facilities of such method.

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