



**TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
Tuesday, March 20, 2018**

**SB 298, An Act Concerning Burial And Cremation In Cases Of
Spontaneous Fetal Demise**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 298, An Act Concerning Burial And Cremation In Cases Of Spontaneous Fetal Demise**. CHA opposes 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. 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 298 deals with the very sensitive and personal topic of miscarriages and the loss of a pregnancy at fewer than 20 weeks gestation. CHA and its member hospitals are aware of the deeply emotional nature of this topic. Hospitals strive to be supportive of families as they face these difficult situations.

However, the bill as drafted is not fully coordinated with existing laws related to the burial of human remains, and contains some concerning aspects about timing and applicability of notices to women who have miscarried or who may soon miscarry. There needs to be very careful alignment among existing laws, appropriate processes, and any mandate for specific and detailed communication efforts to the family.

To ensure that the bill achieves its intended result, and to avoid the unintended outcome of creating any confusion or misalignment with existing laws, we ask that the Department of Public Health (DPH) review the issue thoroughly with input from families, hospitals, clinicians including obstetrics professionals, midwives, and mental health professionals, funeral directors, and any other engaged stakeholders that DPH thinks appropriate, so that the process, and any notification system put in place, achieves the goals of the bill in a patient-centered way, while properly incorporating legal requirements and steps that already exist.

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