



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

SB 403, An Act Concerning Respiratory Care Practitioners

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 403, An Act Concerning Respiratory Care Practitioners**. CHA supports 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 403 seeks to clarify and expand the scope of practice and related continuing education requirements for respiratory care practitioners. Respiratory care practitioners play a vital role in the healthcare team and are invaluable to the care that facilities provide every day to patients. Hospitals in particular rely extensively on the skills and training of these professionals. The expanded areas of practice outlined in SB 403 are appropriately aligned with national educational standards, will promote access to high-quality care, and will modernize some of Connecticut's outdated scope parameters.

CHA is particularly supportive of the additional ability SB 403 would give to deploy respiratory care practitioners in connection with the monitoring and maintenance of extracorporeal life support, including extracorporeal membrane oxygenation and extracorporeal carbon dioxide removal. This new ability is consistent with the approach already used in many other states. Its safety and appropriateness are ensured through requirements for training, recognition of relevant experience, and credentialing by the National Board for Respiratory Care, and are in accordance with the Extracorporeal Life Support Organization's guidelines.

We look forward to working with DPH and the respiratory care provider community to implement these changes safely and effectively at Connecticut's hospitals.

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