Good afternoon Senator Haskell, Representative Haddad, and distinguished committee members. My name is Jeanette W. Weldon and I am here speaking on behalf of the Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority ("CHEFA") to offer testimony in support of Raised Bill No. 816, “An Act Allowing the Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority to Assist Related Health Care Institutions”.

I understand that there are a significant number of bills under review today, so my testimony will be brief.
CHEFA is a quasi-public agency that issues tax-exempt revenue bonds on behalf of Connecticut’s not-for-profit hospitals, so that they can access lower cost investor dollars to fund capital projects. Raised Bill 816 expands CHEFA’s ability to finance projects for our Connecticut based clients that may be undertaking projects located outside of Connecticut.

As the health care industry continues to consolidate and form partnerships, our Connecticut based institutions have begun to ask CHEFA to help finance projects located outside Connecticut. These projects will go forward with or without CHEFA’s support, but CHEFA’s participation benefits the state: compliance with Connecticut’s non-discrimination laws will be required; and each project using tax-exempt bonds will require the approval of the Governor. Additionally, project financial reporting will help CHEFA monitor the financial health of these organizations.

I would also like to note that bonds issued by CHEFA for health care institutions are not obligations of the State, and their repayment does not utilize taxpayer dollars. Broadening CHEFA’s authority will not have a fiscal impact on the State.

Again, thank you for your time. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.