



**TESTIMONY
OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
Tuesday, March 4, 2003**

SB 70, An Act Concerning Implementation Of A Disease Management Initiative

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to testify in support of **SB 70, An Act Concerning Implementation Of A Disease Management Initiative**.

The prevalence of chronic disease has increased rapidly in the past two decades, taxing the resources of a healthcare system designed to meet primarily the emergency and acute care needs of the public. The Joint Commission for the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) estimates that diabetes, heart failure and asthma account for over \$117 billion in direct and indirect medical costs and lost productivity each year. The Institute of Medicine in its January 2003 report, *Priority Areas for National Action: Transforming Health Care Quality*, strongly recommends changes to facilitate care coordination across all settings, especially in regard to chronic diseases.

SB 70 would begin the process of developing a coordinated plan of care across the continuum of healthcare settings for Connecticut Medicaid recipients. Successful disease management initiatives have been shown to help patients learn to manage their disease, decrease emergent episodes and prevent hospitalization. CHA supports development of disease management initiatives.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

JAP:pas