



**TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
Friday, March 1, 2024**

**HB 5290, An Act Concerning The Department Of Public Health's
Recommendations Regarding Various Revisions To The Public Health Statutes**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **HB 5290, An Act Concerning The Department Of Public Health's Recommendations Regarding Various Revisions To The Public Health Statutes**. CHA supports Section 7 of HB 5290.

Connecticut hospitals are critical to their communities. They are confronting the challenges posed by a post-pandemic healthcare system with an exemplary healthcare workforce that continues to provide outstanding care. But challenges remain. Hospitals are treating sicker patients, it continues to be challenging to hire and retain staff, and the financial headwinds are grave. Through it all, hospitals are steadfast, providing high-quality 24-hour care for everyone who walks through their doors, focusing on making Connecticut's healthcare system more equitable, and driving world-class innovation right here in Connecticut.

CHA supports the elimination of the witness signature from the Medical Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (MOLST) form, as provided in Section 7 of HB 5290. MOLST is a medical order form (similar to a prescription) that relays instructions between healthcare clinicians about a patient's care. Patients approaching the end stage of a life-limiting illness or in a condition of advanced progressive frailty may complete a MOLST order with their healthcare clinician. MOLST is based on an individual's right to accept or refuse medical treatment, including treatments that may extend life. Connecticut is one of very few states that require a witness signature on the form. This requirement has proven to be a barrier to patients who wish to participate in the program. The MOLST Advisory Council has recommended removing this requirement from the statute.

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