



**TESTIMONY
OF THE
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, March 6, 2002

SB 417, An Act Concerning Imposing Limitations On Licensed Motor Vehicle Operators Who Are Sixteen Or Seventeen Years Of Age And Increasing The Hours Of Behind-The-Wheel Driving Instructions

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony in support of **SB 417, An Act Imposing Limitations On Licensed Motor Vehicle Operators Who Are Sixteen Or Seventeen Years Of Age And Increasing The Hours Of Behind-The-Wheel Driving Instructions**. Representing all 31 acute care hospitals, CHA supports this legislation, which imposes limitations on licensed motor vehicle operators who are sixteen and seventeen years of age.

Studies show that imposing certain restrictions on teenage drivers results in a significant decrease in the number of fatalities and injuries. As caregivers of those involved in motor vehicle accidents, hospitals know all too well the large number of fatalities and injuries caused by motor vehicle operators who are sixteen and seventeen years of age. Emergency department staff struggle everyday to save the lives of patients injured in car accidents, and hospitals see this bill as a significant step toward reducing the number of injuries and deaths resulting from motor vehicle accidents.

For these reasons, CHA strongly urges the Committee to favorably report this bill out of committee.

Thank you for your consideration.