



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

**Friday, March 1, 2002**

**SB 26, An Act Concerning Driving Under The Influence Of Alcohol**

**HB 5371, An Act Concerning Operating A Motor Vehicle While Under The  
Influence Of Intoxicating Liquor**

The Connecticut Hospital Association appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony in support of **SB 26, An Act Concerning Driving Under The Influence Of Alcohol** and **HB 5371, An Act Concerning Operating A Motor Vehicle While Under The Influence Of Intoxicating Liquor**. Both bills would lower the blood alcohol content at which a person is considered to be operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated to .08%.

CHA strongly supports any effort that will result in fewer drunk drivers on Connecticut roads. Emergency department staff struggle every day to save the lives of patients injured in car accidents in which alcohol was a factor. Hundreds of lives are lost in Connecticut each year due to accidents involving intoxicated drivers. Many of the victims are innocent drivers, families and children that happen to share the road with an intoxicated driver who loses control of his or her vehicle. By strengthening the standard for intoxication, these bills will create additional deterrence to drive for those who have been drinking and potentially save hundreds of lives.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

CCB: