



**TESTIMONY
OF THE
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, March 5, 2002

SB 415, An Act Concerning Preventing Deaths From Drug Overdose

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates the opportunity to testify on **SB 415, An Act Concerning Preventing Deaths From Drug Overdose**, a bill that creates programs and provides grants for the prevention of deaths from drug overdoses.

Section 2 of SB 415 would require the Commissioner of Public Health to publish a report on state-wide drug overdose trends. In that report, the Commissioner would be required to include trends in emergency room utilization related to drug overdose and the cost impact of emergency room utilization. Section 3 would require the Commissioner to develop an education program for hospital staff, among others.

If the bill passes, Connecticut's hospitals will work collaboratively with the Commissioner of Public Health as he establishes a drug education and prevention program and produces a report for the General Assembly. In addition, hospitals would like to work closely with the Commissioner to ensure that any provision of information that might be necessary to facilitate the report would not be unduly burdensome and costly for hospitals.

Thank you for your consideration.