



**TESTIMONY OF  
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION  
SUBMITTED TO THE  
INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE  
Tuesday, February 26, 2008**

**SB 309, An Act Concerning Certain Health Insurance Mandates**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 309, An Act Concerning Certain Health Insurance Mandates**. CHA opposes the bill.

The availability of community-based mental health services is at a crisis level, and there is universal acknowledgement that Connecticut needs to immediately increase access to the full continuum of mental health services. SB 309 would take us in the wrong direction by reducing access to critical mental health services, further skewing parity between covered services for physical medicine and mental health. The result will be fewer Connecticut patients receiving care they need, and an increased drain on remaining services, including our already overcrowded hospital emergency departments, which will likely see an increase in patients who have been left without viable options for community-based care.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

For additional information, contact CHA Government Relations at (203) 294-7310.