



UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE
FOUNDATION OF CONNECTICUT

**Testimony in Regards to
House Bill 5451: An Act Concerning the Department of Public Health's
Recommendations for Various Revisions to the Office of Health Care Access
Statutes
Submitted by Lynne Ide, Director of Program & Policy
Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut
March 2, 2016**

We are testifying in regards to House Bill 5451: An Act Concerning the Department of Public Health's Recommendations for Various Revisions to the Office of Health Care Access Statutes.

We find it encouraging that changes include a state-wide health care facility utilization study, as part of the state-wide health care facilities and services plan, which examines different types of care and which "geographic areas and subpopulations may be under-served or have reduced access to specific types of health care services." A broader strategy of health systems planning is necessary to ensure that all residents have access to an affordable, high-quality, people-centered health system, regardless of where they live.

We acknowledge, in light of Governor Malloy's Executive Order 51, which established a task force to provide recommendations to changes to the Certificate of Need program, that the issues raised in this bill may be addressed by the task force.

Regardless, we believe the intent of this recommendation should be incorporated in OHCA statute.

Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut (UHCF) is an independent, nonprofit foundation working to shape our state's health care system to provide quality, accessible, affordable care and promote good health for all state residents. We work with a diverse array of partner organizations, as well as with individual consumers from throughout Connecticut.