CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

February 10, 2022

Dr. Lawrence M. Schall
President
New England Commission of Higher Education
3 Burlington Woods Drive, Suite 100
Burlington, MA 01803

Dear Dr. Schall,

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) is a not-for-profit membership organization that represents hospitals and health-related organizations. With more than 90 members, CHA's mission is to advance the health of individuals and communities by leading, representing, and serving hospitals and healthcare providers across the continuum of care that are accountable to the community and committed to advancing health and health equity. **We write to support the application by the Connecticut State Colleges & Universities (CSCU) system to create the Connecticut State Community College.**

Like other New England healthcare providers, Connecticut's hospitals and health systems face a severe shortage of skilled labor. Across our state, hospitals are in need of nurses, nursing assistants, and skilled technicians. These roles are essential to providing quality patient care. We have currently and will have in the future far more vacancies than available skilled workers to support our patients and their families.

The shortage in the healthcare labor workforce amplifies the ongoing and important partnership we have with educational institutions in our state, and importantly, that relationship with CSCU. Assessing workforce need and continually evaluating and changing curriculum to meet changes in clinical practice is essential if we are to maintain our already world-class healthcare workforce supported by CSCU and the proposed Connecticut State Community College.

It is important that our future workforce come prepared for current and future clinical practice and to meet the challenges and demands of employment in healthcare settings. For these reasons we are supportive of the work envisioned in the new, unified structure, namely, aligned curriculum, consistent offerings, and the ability to adjust efficiently to the workforce needs of the future.

We respectfully appreciate you considering the needs of healthcare providers and patients when reviewing the application by the Connecticut State Colleges & Universities (CSCU) system to create the Connecticut State Community College.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Jackson
CEO

JDJ:ljs

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