

# **The Norwich Community Development Corporation, Inc.**

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**David L. DiBattista**  
*President*

## **Testimony Before Public Health Committee Regarding: Proposed H.B. Bill No. 6699 – An act authorizing Bonds of the State for Expansion of Hospice Southeastern Connecticut February 26, 2007**

I am David DiBattista, President of the Norwich Community Development Corporation and a staunch advocate for quality end of life services and bereavement services for our neighbors.

We support the efforts of Hospice Southeastern Connecticut to locate on a gift of land from Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Norwich and build a new administrative building and Community Bereavement Center. We support Proposed Bill No. 6699 authorizing the issuance of state bond funds for the expansion.

Hospice Southeastern Connecticut is the oldest Medicare certified and state licensed hospice in New London County. Since 1985, over 5,500 patients and their families have been supported during their most difficult times. The Community Bereavement programs for anyone suffering grief and loss have been free of charge and open to the public since 1991. The 23 ongoing Bereavement Support Groups (such as weekly Expressive Arts for Children) last year had over 160 hospice bereaved and over 450 non-hospice bereaved attending these programs.

Having Hospice Southeastern Connecticut in our community allows better visibility and accessibility for the community residents who come to bereavement programs, educational opportunities and volunteer orientation or training sessions.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak in favor of this bond request for Hospice Southeastern Connecticut so they may continue to provide a valuable service to our community.