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**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 Reverend Philip A. Pusateri, SJ, the pastor of Saints Peter and Paul Roman Catholic Church in Norwich. Our parish hopes to soon have Hospice Southeastern Connecticut as our new neighbor. Ever since Bishop Hart of the Norwich Diocese approached our parish concerning the possibility of a gift of land to help bring Hospice Southeastern Connecticut to our city, I have worked with the support of the members of this parish and more recently with Bishop Cote, Bishop of Norwich, to help make this dream a reality.

We hope that Hospice Southeastern Connecticut will be able to build a new administrative building and Community Bereavement Center on this land here in Norwich. We support Proposed Bill No. 6699 authorizing the issuance of state bond funds for the expansion.

I have often been called to homes of parishioners who are close to death and I have seen the outstanding care they are receiving through Hospice. During the past five years I have also had four family members receive the care given through Hospice Southeastern Connecticut so I have personally experienced what a fine contribution Hospice Southeastern Connecticut makes to the well-being of our community.

I am also very aware of the fact that in addition to going out into the community to serve those who are near death, Hospice Southeastern Connecticut also invites the community to come to them for many varied programs that can be most helpful to family members. The proposed new location will be more readily accessible for many.

I thank you for allowing me to speak in favor of this bond request for Hospice Southeastern Connecticut and I hope that we will soon be able to welcome Hospice Southeastern Connecticut as our new neighbor.