

**THE HOSPITAL OF CENTRAL CONNECTICUT
EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT EXPANSION**

My name is Laurence Tanner and I am the President and CEO at The Hospital of Central Connecticut. I would like to thank you for this opportunity to give testimony in regard to expansion of the New Britain General Campus Emergency Department.

Over the last eight years, patient volume at the New Britain General Campus of The Hospital of Central Connecticut's Emergency Department has experienced a 50 percent increase. Currently, patient visits to the ED are on track to exceed the 69,000 seen in FY06. This poses a substantial problem with an ED designed for 45,000 visits per year. The significant growth in emergency room volume that has occurred across the state is being felt at HCC as we struggle to accommodate the influx of visits. This growth stems from the increase in barriers to routine primary care. The causes of this trend are dwindling supplies of physicians, increased waiting times at physician offices and rising co pays. Couple this with the increasingly higher cost of health insurance and physicians' reluctance to accept Medicaid patients, more and more of the patients in our community seek care at the only outlet left, the ED. The New Britain General Campus currently receives nearly 67% of its ED visits from the city of New Britain. For the towns of Berlin, Newington and Plainville, NBGC's ED is the primary provider. The secondary service area is made up of Bristol, Southington and Farmington where more and more patients are originating from.

In order to satisfy the needs of our community, we believe that the expansion and renovation of the ED at the New Britain General Campus is warranted. Currently, the ED has exceeded its designed capacity. Patient care is being affected by unavailability of treatment rooms, current floor plans not designed for the today's high volume, lack of privacy and security for those patients who need it. The renovation and expansion will add 10,531 square feet to that bringing the total to more than 31,000 square feet. Along with the gain in space, issues with floor plan design will be corrected, allowing for a better work flow. The ED expansion take privacy issues, HIPPA compliance, need for a secure crisis stabilization unit, and time-saving technology into account in a beautiful, new design. The current ED offers only the privacy of a curtain between patient beds and contains the admitting process in a separate area from patient care. The new design maximizes patient privacy and includes the appropriate technology for 100 percent bedside registration. The renovation will result in 44 total beds, with 29 of these monitored, and a larger triage area. There are currently 34 beds, of which 16 are monitored. The total cost of the project is estimated to be about \$5,705,000.

This project will improve the accessibility of services through the modernization and expansion of its current Emergency Department. The community will have better access to care. Currently, the ED staff faces barriers to providing efficient care. Spaces are tight as storage for today's equipment needs has become scarce. Stabilized and/or observation patients may sometimes be put into the hallway when a room is needed for another patient. Privacy becomes an issue as patients, family and staff feels uncomfortable

discussing a patient's medical history when there is another patient nearby. Security issues are raised when psychiatric patients are treated in a non-secure area.

This project will improve the delivery of health care in central Connecticut by providing an up-to-date ED for patients, physicians, and staff. In addition, the project responds to the growing demand of emergent care currently experienced. Finally, it affords the community improved access to care, reduced waiting time, and better security and privacy. We ask that you approve the bonding for this much needed project.