



**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**

For the past twenty years I have had the privilege of being the Executive Director of Hospice Southeastern Connecticut. During that time our agency has provided quality compassionate interdisciplinary care to any age individual with any life limiting illness. During that time we have developed ongoing Bereavement Support and Community Programs for anyone suffering the pain of grief or loss. During that time we have built respected professional relationships with: physicians; Lawrence & Memorial, Backus and Westerly hospitals and their staff; a variety of community health care providers and referral sources. During that time we have grown our professional, compassionate "business" to carefully meet the needs of our ever increasing caseload. During that time we have also felt the unwavering support of our program from the very community that we serve.

During that time we have rented various offices, the last being a former warehouse that is easily missed at night when someone is looking for a bereavement support group. As the agency has remained committed to our mission we have been extremely fortunate to have been given a gift of land upon which we will build a new office and Community Bereavement Center.

Now is the time for us to relocate to a place that is more accessible to the community.

I would like to speak on behalf of our entire agency, the staff, volunteers, Board of Directors and most important our patients and families in favor of Proposed H.B. Bill No. 6699. The proposed Bill would allow us to better utilize our finite agency resources for the care of our patients and their families.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this Bill.

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Executive Director