



Testimony of James Parker, MD, Emergency Room Physician and Medical Director of the Critical Care Transport Team at Connecticut Children's Medical Center to the Public Health Committee regarding *House Bill 6599, An Act Concerning Patient Safety.*

March 6th, 2009

Senator Harris, Representative Ritter, Members of the Public Health Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding *House Bill 6599, An Act Concerning Patient Safety*. My name is Jim Parker and I am an Emergency Room Physician at Connecticut Children's Medical Center. I am also the Medical Director of Connecticut Children's Critical Care Transport Team.

Connecticut Children's needs to operate a critical care transport team to bring critically ill or injured children and newborns from community hospitals to our facility when they need tertiary care services that are not available at the community facility. Current Office of Emergency Medical Services regulations require that every individual who provides care to a patient in an ambulance must be licensed as a paramedic. This regulation prevents our team of trained pediatric critical care clinicians from providing the specialized services that these newborns and children need. Connecticut Children's is currently not operating this service because of potential liability for our clinicians' licenses. As a result, children who need our transport services do not have access to them.

I am asking today that you amend House Bill 6599 to include a section that defines Neonatal and Pediatric Specialty Care Transport (see reverse). The language should promote patient safety by requiring the use of a basic level ambulance with a licensed EMT-Paramedic on board. The language should also recognize that critically ill neonates and children need ongoing care that must be furnished by certified or licensed health professionals who specialize in neonatology or pediatrics. Current standards established by the American Heart Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics define the qualifications for members of a neonatal and pediatric critical care teams.

It is important that this amendment be written so that it will be effective upon passage since Connecticut Children's is not currently offering critical care transport services, pending the statutory change. When enacted, this amendment will allow Connecticut Children's to resume operation of its critical care transport team, providing our patients with access to the specialized health care transport services they need in a safe environment. I urge you to support amending House Bill 6599 to include a definition of Neonatal and Pediatric Specialty Care Transport.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Proposed language to include as an amendment to *House Bill 6599, An Act Concerning Patient Safety*

Section 19-175 of the General Statutes is amended by adding subsection (25) as follows (effective upon passage):

(25) "Neonatal and Pediatric Specialty Care Transport" means the inter facility transport between licensed hospitals of critically injured or ill neonates, infants or children by at least a basic level ambulance that meets the requirements of the regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, including medically necessary supplies and services, at a level of service beyond the scope of the EMT-Paramedic. Specialty care transport is necessary when the patient condition requires ongoing care that must be furnished by one or more certified or licensed health professionals in the appropriate specialty care area of neonatology or pediatrics. The ambulance shall meet the requirements of a basic level ambulance as outlined in the regulations of Connecticut State Agencies and be supplemented by at least a licensed registered nurse or licensed mid-level practitioner currently trained and certified in Pediatric Advanced Life Support pursuant to American Heart Association standards or Neonatal Resuscitation pursuant to the American Academy of Pediatrics standards, as appropriate based on the patient's condition.