



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE March 6, 2009

Leonard H. Guercia, Jr., Operations Branch Chief, 509-7975

House Bill 6599 - An Act Concerning Patient Safety

The Department of Public Health **supports** House Bill 6599.

When an individual is experiencing a medical emergency the furthest thing from their mind is their safety during transportation to the receiving medical facility. This proposal would mandate patient safety that the general public already takes for granted, but may not happen. When someone is experiencing a medical emergency the assurance that they are transported in a safe method is parallel to the expectation that their emergency care will be delivered in a safe manner as well.

Passage of this legislation will not impact budgets or require additional personnel, it simply assures that emergency medical patients will be transported in an ambulance that is licensed or certified by the state.

Additionally, the Department is supportive of amending this bill to include language that would address the important issue of the neonatal or pediatric intensive care patient inter-facility transportation. Inter-facility transport consideration should be given to those patients who are already in a health care facility, their specific needs are beyond the scope of the facility they are in and require safe transport with on-going medical care while enroute to a tertiary center. The ability to assure safe interfacility transportation for trauma patients, the newborn (neonatal transportation) or the pediatric intensive care patient (NICU) is critical to a positive patient outcome and passage of this legislation would help in assuring their safe transportation as well their on-going care.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on this bill.

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