



**TESTIMONY OF  
R. Christopher Hartley  
Senior Vice President  
Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center  
BEFORE THE  
PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE  
February 18, 2010**

**HB 5154, An Act Including Hospital Security Officers in the  
Public Safety, Emergency Medical or Public Transit Personnel Offense**

My name is Robert C. Hartley and I am a Senior Vice President at Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center. My testimony today is in support of HB5154.

Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center is a major tertiary teaching hospital located in Hartford, Connecticut. Every year Saint Francis provides health care services to over 32,000 inpatients, 67,000 emergency room visits and over 200,000 outpatients. We employ 5,000+ employees, 79 of whom work for our Security Department.

One of the main expectations of every patient, employee and family member who comes to Saint Francis is that the institution will maintain a safe, nurturing environment where the primary focus of all activity is to improve the health of those who come to us for care.

Critical components of our safety team are our security officers. They play many roles at Saint Francis, from information guide to traffic director to transport assistant, and employee escort. More rarely, they are also called upon to protect patients from themselves, to assist in crowd control, prevent theft and remove uncooperative visitors.

The changes proposed in HB5154 extend to the security officers the same legal protection already afforded other members of the health care team with whom they work, i.e., EMTs, nurses and physicians. As it is this team that makes Saint Francis the special health care environment it is today, and we urge you to pass HB5154.