

**TESTIMONY OF
STEVEN D. HANKS, M.D.
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER
THE HOSPITAL OF CENTRAL CONNECTICUT
SUBMITTED TO THE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
Wednesday, February 9, 2011**

**HB 5048, An Act Requiring Certificate Of Need Approval For
The Termination Of Inpatient And Outpatient Services By A Hospital**

My name is Steven D. Hanks, M.D. and I am Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer of **The Hospital of Central Connecticut**. I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony concerning **HB 5048, An Act Requiring Certificate Of Need Approval For The Termination Of Inpatient And Outpatient Services By A Hospital**. **The Hospital of Central Connecticut** opposes this bill.

HB 5048 requires any hospital that seeks to terminate inpatient or outpatient services currently offered by the hospital to file a Certificate of Need application with the Office of Health Care Access division of the Department of Public Health

The Hospital of Central Connecticut ("HCC") reflects the combined talent, resources, and capabilities of the 2200 employees who work at our two campuses in New Britain and Southington Connecticut. The mission of the hospital is fostering and improving the health status of the people we serve in central Connecticut. We are a 414-bed acute care teaching hospital affiliated with the University Of Connecticut School Of Medicine and serve as the primary referral center for the central Connecticut region. Our service area comprises a population of 250,000. As a full-service hospital, **The Hospital of Central Connecticut** offers many clinical services that are recognized for their comprehensiveness and excellence. They include: The George Bray Cancer Center; The Wolfson Palliative Care Program; The Joslin Center for Diabetes, The Wound Care Center; The Family Birth Place; Critical Care Services, The Sleep Disorders Center, among others at **The Hospital of Central Connecticut**.

HB 5048 would impose significant burdens on hospitals by reinstating the requirement that hospitals first obtain OHCA approval before terminating any service – not just identified essential services. In addition, there is no such burden placed on non-hospital entities, which creates an unfair and inequitable playing field that adversely affects hospitals and promotes the interest of other providers. If **HB 5048** were to become law, hospitals (but no other providers) would be required to seek permission through an elaborate application, review, and hearing process, in order to seek termination of any service.

HB 5048 will create a new and costly system in which hospitals and only hospitals will be forced to incur high legal and consulting costs to prepare CON applications. **HB 5048** would place hospitals at an extreme disadvantage to other providers that are not subject to the same administrative and legal processes and delays.

For these reasons, **The Hospital of Central Connecticut opposes HB 5048**. Thank you for your consideration of my position.