



TESTIMONY OF
*Jeffrey Flaks, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating
Officer of Hartford Hospital*
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**

Hartford Hospital appreciates 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. *Hartford Hospital* 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.

HB 5048 will create a new – and ultimately unsustainable – 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. Furthermore, HB 5048 will return us to the conditions that existed prior to the CON reforms implemented by Public Act 10-179. If HB 5048 were to become law, hospitals would be required to seek permission through an elaborate application, review, and hearing process, in order to seek termination of any service. We are a hospital with numerous sites and services. Flexibility is paramount to meeting the needs of patients in the region.

Hartford Hospital is the major teaching hospital with over 860 beds, affiliated with the University of Connecticut Medical School, serving the New England region. We maintain the only Level 1 Trauma Center in the region, and operate the state's only air ambulance system, LIFE STAR and have been an innovator in medicine since its inception. We have been a force for good in the community since our founding 150 years ago. Hartford Hospital has provided over \$250,000 in community benefit to the people in our area. Our physicians, board members and staff volunteers contribute countless hours to community service. We are a major economic force in the region employing approximately 7000 people - more than a quarter of them Hartford residents.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.