



Hospital of Saint Raphael

A member of the Saint Raphael Healthcare System

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**WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF
JOSEPH B. BISSON
VICE PRESIDENT, PLANNING AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
HOSPITAL OF SAINT RAPHAEL**

**PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
Wednesday, February 9, 2011**

RE: H.B. 5048, AN ACT REQUIRING CERTIFICATE OF NEED APPROVAL FOR THE
TERMINATION OF INPATIENT AND OUTPATIENT SERVICES BY A HOSPITAL

The Hospital of Saint Raphael appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony opposing HB 5048, An Act Requiring Certificate of Need Approval For The Termination of Inpatient and Outpatient Services By A Hospital.

Currently, a certificate of need is required to close essential hospital services, such as an emergency department or inpatient and outpatient mental health and substance abuse services. Proposed House Bill 5048 would reinstate the requirement that hospitals first obtain Office of Health Care Access approval before terminating any service. Since HB 5048 would only apply to hospitals, this would create an unfair and un-level playing field that adversely affects hospitals and would result in promoting the interest of other providers.

Although the intent of House Bill 5048 may have been to return to the CON law prior to Public Act 10-179, it would instead create a new system in which hospitals, and only hospitals, will be forced to incur legal and/or consulting costs to prepare CON applications. HB 5048 would place hospitals at a disadvantage to other healthcare providers that would not be subject to the same administrative and legal processes and delays.

We urge the Public Health Committee to oppose House Bill 5048. Thank you for your consideration.