



P.O. Box 977
Bristol, CT 06011-0977
860-585-3000

<http://www.bristolhospital.org>

**TESTIMONY OF
Leonard Banco, MD, Chief Medical Officer
Bristol Hospital
SUBMITTED TO THE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
Friday, March 11, 2011**

**HB 6545, An Act Concerning The Provision Of Prophylactic And
Emergency Care To Hospital Patients**

Bristol Hospital appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony concerning HB 6545, An Act Concerning The Provision Of Prophylactic And Emergency Care To Hospital Patients . Bristol Hospital supports this bill.

Everyone who has spent more than a few minutes in a hospital in 2011 realizes that there are many things going on all at once, with multiple competing demands on the time of physicians, nurses and other healthcare professionals. It is critical that we make optimal use of the resources at hand in a planful, safe way. The appropriate use of protocols and policies (standing orders) after assessment for contraindications can provide more timely, higher quality care. Any such policies and protocols would need to be reviewed and approved within our hospital, and monitored to assure appropriate use. They would also need to be compliant with section 42 CFR Part 482, the CMS Medicare Conditions of Participation for hospitals. These standing orders would only be used for care that is emergent, timely and necessary or to advance patient care.

CMS has recently clarified its endorsement of the use of standing orders in a communication to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). The communication was in response to an AAP request that CMS clarify the rule on standing orders because many in the provider community, and many state oversight agencies, were under the mistaken impression that standing orders were not permitted. The AAP was particularly concerned about delivering appropriate, routine care to normal newborn infants in the delivery room or nursery.

HB 6545 will remove any confusion for providers, and for DPH, as to whether Connecticut permits standing orders, and in so doing, move us forward to achieving better care outcomes.

It is our strong belief that when used appropriately, standing orders can improve the quality and timeliness of care. We urge you to give favorable consideration to this bill.