



**TESTIMONY OF**

***Hartford Hospital  
Hartford HealthCare***

**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**

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

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.

HB 6545 would allow hospitals to utilize protocols and policies, sometimes known as "standing orders" after an assessment for contraindications. Such orders would need to be in accordance with a physician-approved hospital policy; used for care that is emergent, timely and necessary or to advance patient care, and; only as permitted by 42 CFR Part 482, the CMS Medicare Conditions of Participation for hospitals.

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. Hence, HB 6545 will remove any confusion for providers, and for the State Department of Public Health, as to whether Connecticut supports standing orders, and in so doing, move us forward to achieving better care outcomes.

We urge your support of HB 6545.