



February 18, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Proposed S.B. No. 532: An act concerning authorization of Bonds of the state for purposes of construction of a hospice residential facility in Norwich

In January, 2011, SECT legislators put forth a bill in the State Senate proposing \$750,000 for the purpose of constructing a hospice residential facility in Norwich. I am in full support of this bill for the following reasons:

- Hospice Southeastern Ct is a community based, nonprofit and the oldest hospice serving the entire New London County; since 1985
- Cared for over 9,000 patients since 1985
- Care for patients wherever they call home; own home, Skilled Nursing Facility, in the hospital should that type of care be necessary
- Provide bereavement services free of charge, for not just families cared for by Hospice Southeastern Ct but for anyone in the community suffering a loss
- When a terminally ill patient living in Eastern CT can no longer be cared for at home and hospital care is not necessary there is NO OTHER option for the family except to put the person into a Nursing Home for care
- A FULL end of life continuum of care must include the option for care in a Hospice Residence; a hospice residence provides a home like environment which delivers all levels of excellent symptom control and is a place where the family may stay overnight with their loved one
- There are only 3 hospice residences in CT: Stamford , Branford, Middletown
- Anyone in Eastern CT who needs or chooses care in a hospice residence must leave their community and the family must drive long distances to be with their dying loved one
- Hospice Southeastern has a campus with a Community Bereavement Center and administrative office on nearly 7 acres of donated land in Norwich
- We have plans to build a 12 bed hospice residence on this same land to serve all of Eastern CT
- The residence will cost approximately 5 million dollars: S.B. 532 would authorize \$750,000 towards this expense
- The remaining funds would be raised through a capital campaign
- The land and site approval are in place along with a preliminary residence design

Therefore, I respectfully request that you favorably approve S.B. No. 532: An act concerning authorization of Bonds of the state for purposes of construction of a hospice residential facility in Norwich.

Sincerely,

Crista Durand
Hospice Southeastern CT Board Member

Vice President, Strategic Planning, Marketing, Business Development
Lawrence & Memorial Hospital