



**TESTIMONY OF  
MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL  
SUBMITTED TO THE  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE  
Friday, March 11, 2011**

**HB6545, An Act Concerning The Provision of Prophylactic and  
Emergency Care to Hospital Patients**

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

Middlesex Hospital is an acute care community hospital with a main campus located in Middletown. Middlesex Hospital is one of the largest employers in Middlesex County with about 2,500 employees. Last year the Hospital provided an estimated \$28 million in community benefit programs and services to the people of greater Middlesex County.

Middlesex Hospital offers a wide array of inpatient and outpatient healthcare services to the greater Middlesex County community. We are one of the largest providers of emergency care services in Connecticut, as we provide upwards of 90,000 emergency service visits annually via three separate 24 hour, 7 day-a-week emergency care facilities.

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.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important healthcare bill.