

**Written Testimony of Western Connecticut Healthcare, Inc.**

**In Support of HB 5489**

***An Act Concerning an Additional State Fire School***

**Public Safety and Security Committee**

**February 22, 2011**

Distinguished members of the Public Safety and Security Committee, we submit the following comments on behalf of Western Connecticut Healthcare, Inc. which is comprised of both Danbury and New Milford Hospitals and affiliated organizations spread throughout Fairfield and Litchfield Counties, to convey our wholehearted support for the greater Danbury legislative delegation's proposal to establish a second State Fire School within the City of Danbury.

The greater Danbury area has a proud history of collaboration among hospital, fire and police thanks to the support of their committed personnel and that of our federal, state and local leaders. Those critical collaborations have not only yielded benefits for our communities in the promotion of public safety, but will also serve us in preparing for diminishing financial resources from the federal and state government.

Western Connecticut Healthcare is in a unique position to know first-hand the importance of supporting regional delivery of health and safety services in Region V, and the location of an additional State Fire School in Danbury makes sense on a number of levels. We believe our greater Danbury community has a strong foundation of community-based services and proven partnerships with fire and other public safety personnel. The trend toward regionalization of services, also lends to this proposal. Locating a second State Fire School in that environment would serve as a perfect complement to the School's critical instruction.

We at Western Connecticut healthcare thank you for raising this concept as a committee bill and urge your support for our delegation's important proposal. Thank you for your consideration.

*Respectfully submitted this day by Andrea Rynn, Director-Public & Government Relations*