



YALE-NEW HAVEN HOSPITAL

Testimony of Yale-New Haven Hospital Submitted to the Transportation Committee February 14, 2011

SB 706, An Act Concerning Municipal Intersection Safety Systems; SB 822, An Act Authorizing the Use of Photographic Traffic Enforcement Technology; HB 6178, An Act Authorizing the Use of Traffic Cameras by Municipalities; HB 6179, An Act Authorizing Municipalities to Operate Intersection Safety Camera Systems

On behalf of Yale-New Haven hospital, thank you for providing an opportunity to submit testimony in support of **SB 706, An Act Concerning Municipal Intersection Safety Systems; SB 822, An Act Authorizing the Use of Photographic Traffic Enforcement Technology; HB 6178, An Act Authorizing the Use of Traffic Cameras by Municipalities; and HB 6179, An Act Authorizing Municipalities to Operate Intersection Safety Camera Systems.**

Yale-New Haven Hospital supports these bills, as they will promote safety and traffic calming, not only around the hospital's campus, but also throughout the City of New Haven and other municipalities throughout the State of Connecticut. As the only level 1 trauma facility in the region, Yale-New Haven Hospital often treats the effects of catastrophic injuries caused by motor vehicle accidents – injuries that can take an economic and emotional toll on individuals and families.

As a result, we support initiatives that will promote safety at intersections, including photographic traffic cameras. Studies by the Institute for Highway Safety show that red light camera enforcement programs often reduce the citywide rate of fatal red light running crashes, and to a lesser but still significant extent, the rate of all fatal crashes at signalized intersections. The safety consequences of running red lights are considerable and further studies of urban crashes show that running red lights and other traffic controls was the most common type of crash.

As you are aware, hospital emergency departments are usually inundated with patients, and any measure to help reduce the volume of patients can only make it easier for physicians to provide more specialized care.

Yale-New Haven Hospital employs over seven thousand individuals, and we treat a vast number of patients on a daily basis. Additionally, through our affiliation with the Yale School of Medicine, many medical students and other clinicians use our facilities. These individuals navigate busy city streets to get to various locations on the hospital's large campus, and therefore keeping them safe is a high priority for us. Careful measures that would help to promote safety and encourage motorists to be more attentive are needed.

We encourage you to support these bills by giving them a favorable vote. Thank you for considering our position.