



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH 2/09/11
**HB 5048: AN ACT REQUIRING CERTIFICATE OF NEED APPROVAL FOR THE
TERMINATION OF IMPATIENT AND OUTPATIENT SERVICES BY A HOSPITAL**

**GOOD MORNING REPRESENTATIVES RITTER, SENATOR STILLMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE. I AM REPRESENTATIVE CLAIRE JANOWSKI
FROM THE 56TH DISTRICT OF VERNON & ROCKVILLE.**

**I AM PLEASED TO SPEAK IN SUPPORT OF BILL HB 5048, AN ACT REQUIRING
CERTIFICATE OF NEED APPROVAL FOR THE TERMINATION OF IMPATIENT AND
OUTPATIENT SERVICES BY A HOSPITAL. FIRST, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE
COMMITTEE FOR RAISING THE BILL WHICH WAS PROPOSED TO ADDRESS AN ISSUE
THAT SURFACED FOLLOWING THE MERGER OF THE OFFICE OF HEALTH CARE
ACCESS (OHCA) WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACTING OCHA'S
OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITIES RELATED TO HOSPITAL TERMINATION OF
INPATIENT & OUTPATIENT SERVICES. THE PURPOSE OF THE BILL IS TO RESTORE
THE PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY THAT EXISTED PRIOR TO THE MERGER BY RESTORING
OCHA'S DISCRETION TO HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING RELATED TO SUCH
TERMINATIONS AND HONOR REQUESTS FROM THE COMMUNITY TO HOLD SUCH
PUBLIC HEARINGS AS WAS PREVIOUSLY THE CASE.**

**THIS IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT TO ENSURE PROPER OVERSIGHT OF SMALL
COMMUNITY HOSPITALS AS WELL AS ANY HOSPITAL THAT PRE-DATES THE
CERTIFICATE OF NEED PROCESS AND ARE NO LONGER SUBJECT TO THE SAME
OVERSIGHT PROTECTIONS AS HOSPITALS THAT OPERATE UNDER A CERTIFICATE
OF NEED.**

THE BILL DOES NOT INTRODUCE ANY NEW CHANGES OR RESTRICTIONS...IT SIMPLY RESTORES OVERSIGHT THAT WAS INADVERTEDLY ELIMINATED WHEN A HOSPITAL TERMINATION OF INPATIENT & OUTPATIENT SERVICE REQUEST WAS REMOVED FROM THE CERTIFICATE OF NEED PROCESS REQUIREMENT LAST YEAR.

THAT CHANGE, WHICH BECAME EFFECTIVE OCTOBER, 2010 ELIMINATED THE PUBLIC HEARING PROCESS, SHUT-OUT PUBLIC INPUT AND, IN ESSENCE, ELIMINATED ANY OHCA OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY, MAKING THAT IMPORTANT DECISION "AUTOMATIC". THIS IS WHAT HAPPENED RECENTLY AT ROCKVILLE GENERAL HOSPITAL WHEN THE PARENT COMPANY BOARD MADE A "BUSINESS" DECISION TO ELIMINATE THE MATERNITY WARD AT THAT HOSPITAL & MOVED THE SERVICES TO ANOTHER HOSPITAL.

THAT "AUTOMATIC" PROCESS IS A DISSERVICE TO THE PUBLIC, THE CLIENTS BEING SERVED AND A DETRIMENT TO THE COMMUNITY IN WHICH THE HOSPITAL IS LOCATED. SIMPLY PUT, HB 5048 RESTORES THE PUBLIC HEARING PROCESS THAT SHOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN ELIMINATED AND PROPERLY RESTORES OHCA'S RESPONSIBILITY TO FAIRLY REVIEW SUCH REQUESTS WITH PUBLIC INPUT AND RESTORES ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE DECISION TO APPROVE OR NOT APPROVE.

I URGE A FAVORABLE VOTE ON MOVING THIS IMPORTANT BILL FORWARD AND THANK THE COMMITTEE FOR RAISING THE ISSUE AS A COMMITTEE BILL.

**Claire Janowski
State Representative
Vernon & Rockville**