

**TESTIMONY OF  
Yale New Haven Health System  
(Bridgeport, Greenwich and Yale-New Haven Hospitals)  
SUBMITTED TO THE  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE  
Wednesday, February 9, 2011**

**HB 5048, An Act Requiring Certificate Of Need Approval For  
The Termination Of Inpatient And Outpatient Services By A Hospital**

Yale New Haven Health System (YNHHS) appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony concerning **HB 5048, An Act Requiring Certificate Of Need Approval For The Termination Of Inpatient And Outpatient Services By A Hospital**. YNHHS Affiliates, Bridgeport, Greenwich and Yale-New Haven Hospitals, oppose the bill.

Yale New Haven Health is Connecticut's leading healthcare system, with more than 12,000 employees and 4700 medical staff who last year provided high quality care health care in over 1 million outpatient visits and nearly 90,000 inpatient visits. Bridgeport, Greenwich and Yale-New Haven Hospitals, and their affiliated organizations, provide comprehensive, cost-effective, advanced patient care characterized by safety, quality and service. We offer our patients a range of healthcare services, from primary care to the most complex care available anywhere in the world. YNHHS operates under a shared governance model; each hospital has its own Board of Directors and there is a System Board of Directors. Bridgeport, Greenwich and Yale-New Haven Hospitals are committed members of their local communities and provide millions of dollars in free and charity care and community benefit activities, such as Habitat for Humanity, workforce development, health education and screenings, school partnerships, and assistance to local nonprofit organizations.

HB 5048 seeks to require any hospital that wishes to terminate inpatient or outpatient services currently offered by the hospital to file a certificate of need (CON) application with the Office of Health Care Access division of the Department of Public Health. The bill would impose significant burdens on hospitals by reinstating the requirement that hospitals first obtain OHCA approval before terminating **any** service – not just identified essential services. (For example, under current law, hospitals must already file a CON to terminate emergency or mental health services.) Further, there is no such requirement on non-hospital entities, which creates an unfair and un-level playing field that adversely affects hospitals and promotes the interest of other providers. If HB 5048 were to become law, hospitals (but no other providers) would be required to seek permission through an elaborate and costly application, review, and hearing process, to seek termination of any service. HB 5048 will create a new system in which hospitals, and only hospitals, will be forced to incur high legal and consulting costs to prepare CON applications. HB 5048 would place hospitals at a disadvantage to other providers that are not subject to the same administrative and legal processes and delays.

On behalf of YNHHS, we respectfully urge your opposition to HB 5048.