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### **Testimony of Dr. Bradford Sherburne 02-08-2011**

Senator Stillman, Representative Ritter, and Members of the Public Health Committee, my name is Dr. Bradford Sherburne and I am the Medical Director of Transfusion Medicine at Hartford Hospital and Connecticut Children's Medical Center. I graduated from Dartmouth Medical School in 1985 and did my residency training at New England Deaconess Hospital in Boston. I am Board Certified in clinical pathology, transfusion medicine and blood banking.

I strongly oppose the proposed legislation that would restrict the number of blood drives by requiring that a nurse be present to conduct them. There is no precedent or national standard of care mandating such a requirement. In my opinion, enacting this legislation would be a very poor use of nurses, who are a precious and limited resource needed to treat sick patients in hospitals. Moreover, as a regular volunteer blood donor, I receive first class care from the staff at blood drives, and I am confident in the Red Cross commitment to donor safety.

I speak for all acute care Connecticut hospitals, and in particular, for my large not-for-profit institution, where upwards of 40,000 blood products are transfused annually. The temptation to award blood services to the "lowest bidder" is unavoidable if we are to spend our dollars prudently. To engage an out-of-state provider would cost us less, but also result in the loss of Red Cross resources. We can indeed find lower priced products from other parts of the country where wage pressure and manufacturing costs are less. In fact, we were on the cusp of such outsourcing, but the Connecticut Blood

Services Region was able to make financial accomodation. If we add the unnecessary expense of a nurse at every blood drive, the outcome will surely be different.

For 60 years, the Red Cross Blood Region based in our state has been entrusted by Connecticut's hospitals to be the steward of the state's blood supply. Based in Farmington, the Red Cross Blood Region can reach hospitals in all areas of the state within two hours, and can always be relied on to meet our patients' needs. I see these examples every day. When a trauma patient requires over 150 transfusions, when we need cross-matched platelets for a cancer patient, or when a patient with a difficult cross-match is about to have a life-saving liver transplant, we know the blood will be available by calling the Red Cross here in Connecticut. I can state confidently that a blood supplier which is not locally based would not be optimal for patient care.

Please support the Red Cross and their continued commitment to patients in Connecticut by not passing the requirement in Bill #6277 that would require an RN at every blood drive.