



**TESTIMONY OF
Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center
SUBMITTED TO THE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
Friday, March 11, 2011**

**HB 6545, An Act Concerning The Provision Of Prophylactic And
Emergency Care To Hospital Patients**

Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony concerning **HB 6545, An Act Concerning The Provision Of Prophylactic And Emergency Care To Hospital Patients**. Saint Francis supports this bill.

Saint Francis is a 617 bed general acute care hospital located in Hartford, Connecticut. Saint Francis is a tertiary teaching hospital affiliated with the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. It is the largest Catholic hospital in New England and the third largest hospital in Connecticut. In FY2010 Saint Francis provided care to over 32,000 inpatients, 200,000 outpatients and treated over 69,000 people in its emergency department. Saint Francis provided the Greater Hartford community with over 83 million dollars of unreimbursed healthcare services in FY2010 (including bad debt). Over 64 million dollars of the 83 million dollar total was for services identified as community benefits.

- HB 6545 would allow hospitals to utilize protocols and policies, sometimes known as “standing orders” after an assessment for contraindications. Such orders would need to be in accordance with a physician-approved hospital policy; used for care that is emergent, timely and necessary or to advance patient care, and; only as permitted by 42 CFR Part 482, the CMS Medicare Conditions of Participation for hospitals.
- CMS has recently clarified its endorsement of the use of standing orders in a communication to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). The communication was in response to an AAP request that CMS clarify the rule on standing orders because many in the provider community, and many state oversight agencies, were under the mistaken impression that standing orders were not permitted.
- HB 6545 will remove any confusion for providers, and for DPH, as to whether Connecticut supports standing orders, and in so doing, move us forward to achieving better care outcomes.