

Testimony of Stamford Hospital
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**

Stamford Hospital appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony concerning HB6545, An Act Concerning The Provision of Prophylactic And Emergency Care to Hospital Patients. HB 6545 would allow hospitals to utilize protocols and policies, sometimes known as “standing orders” after an initial patient assessment. After careful consideration of this important issue, Stamford Hospital supports approval and enactment of HB 6545.

Such Prophylactic and Emergency Care would be utilized 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. Such orders would need to be in accordance with a physician-approved hospital policy and would remove any confusion for providers, and for the Department of Public Health, as to whether Connecticut supports standing orders, and doing so would move the state forward toward achieving better patient care outcomes.

In summary, 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 since many in the provider community were under the mistaken impression that standing orders were not permitted.

Thank you.