



**Testimony of the Connecticut Children's Medical Center
to the General Law Committee Regarding
*HB 5329, An Act Concerning the Use of Telepharmacy by Hospitals***

March 6, 2012

Senator Doyle, Representative Taborsak, members of the General Law Committee, thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts about the state budget. My name is Matthew Wallace, M.S., R.Ph. and I am the Pharmacy Manager at the Connecticut Children's Medical Center. I am submitting this testimony in support of *House Bill 5329, An Act Concerning the Use of Telepharmacy by Hospitals*.

Public Act 11-242 (Section 50) contained a provision that permitted the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP), in consultation with the Department of Public Health, to establish a telepharmacy pilot program in one Connecticut hospital and its satellite locations. In January, DCP issued a letter of approval for the telepharmacy pilot program that is in place at Yale-New Haven Hospital. The current pilot allows for patients to receive IV care and treatment closer to home, with a pharmacist at Yale-New Haven Hospital providing real-time audio and visual review of the activities of a pharmacy technician working at the satellite location. In addition, the pharmacy technician takes photographs of the sterile products at each step of the process for real-time review and verification, as well as long-term technical storage and quality review.

HB 5329 will permit all of Connecticut's hospitals to participate in similar telepharmacy initiatives on a permanent basis, provided they meet the same quality standards outlined in the current pilot and are in compliance with DCP pharmacy regulations.

Connecticut Children's supports this bill along with the technical change to lines 45-46, proposed by the Connecticut Hospital Association, to replace "an appropriately licensed individual" with "a licensed pharmacist".

Thank you for your consideration of our position.