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**Testimony of
Peter J. Karl, President & CEO
EASTERN CONNECTICUT HEALTH NETWORK (ECHN)**

Submitted to the
General Law Committee
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HB 5329: An Act Concerning the Use of Telepharmacy by Hospitals

As President and CEO of Eastern Connecticut Health Network (ECHN) and as Secretary of the Connecticut Hospital Association's Executive Committee and Chairman of its Committee on Government Relations, I am writing to express our strong support of House Bill 5329: An Act Concerning the Use of Telepharmacy by Hospitals.

ECHN is a not-for-profit health care system serving 19 towns in eastern Connecticut. Our network of affiliates includes Manchester Memorial Hospital, Rockville General Hospital, Woodlake at Tolland Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, Eastern Connecticut Medical Professionals, Women's Center for Wellness, Visiting Nurse & Health Services of CT and Eastern Connecticut Cancer Institute. We employ over 2,500 people in eastern Connecticut and paid out \$134 million in salaries and an additional \$84 million in goods and services in 2011. We also provided \$5.6 million in charity care during our last fiscal year.

Public Act 11-242 (Section 50) contained a key provision that permitted the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP), in consultation with the Department of Public Health (DPH), to establish a telepharmacy pilot program in a Connecticut hospital and its satellite locations. The telepharmacy pilot program was successfully employed at Yale-New Haven Hospital and received a letter of approval from DCP.

The pilot programs 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 Connecticut 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.

I am confident ECHN would benefit greatly from this program going statewide since we are a two-campus system that has pharmacies at Rockville General Hospital and Manchester Memorial Hospital. As written, this legislation will allow our pharmacists to check the work of pharmacy technicians at other sites.

On behalf of ECHN and the Connecticut Hospital Association, thank you for your consideration of our testimony and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Karl". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Peter J. Karl
President & CEO