

**TESTIMONY OF
THOMAS J. NERO, M.D., F.A.C.C.
BEFORE THE
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
FRIDAY, March 23, 2012
H.B. 5506 AN ACT CONCERNING GOOD SAMARITAN PROTECTION**

My Name is Thomas Nero. I am a practicing cardiologist in Stamford, Connecticut. Attached to this letter is a copy of my biographical information. During my entire professional career, I have been involved in preventive medicine particularly with regard to cardiac care. The national statistics are overwhelming that early intervention when one is having a cardiac event drastically improves the chances of recovery. Applying Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and using defibrillators within minutes of an event can definitely change the outcome. We know that the greater the number of people who are trained in CPR and in the use of defibrillators, the greater the chance that these life saving techniques will be utilized to save lives. However, people have always been concerned about potential liability when they reach out to help a stranger. Fortunately, the Connecticut legislature, along with legislatures of most states in the United States have enacted Good Samaritan laws to protect people who try to help their neighbors, friends and family members. Connecticut's Good Samaritan Law preconditions the protection of the law to being trained in accordance with certain "standards" of accrediting organizations such as the American Red Cross and the American Heart Association. The difficulty is the current terminology being used in the Connecticut statute, as these organizations do not publish "Standards", but rather "Guidelines".

Thus, I am writing in support of the proposed changes to the Good Samaritan Law in HB 5506. The change would clarify the current law to be in accordance with the written "Guidelines" from the American Heart Association and the American Red Cross, as currently there are no published standards. This would in turn eliminate the concerns from people wanting to perform CPR in an emergency situation, based on the current statute. Our greatest issue with improving the outcome from cardiac arrest is early initiation of CPR, and this technical change would eliminate another barrier.

Thank you for considering this minor but important technical change to the existing statute.

Thomas Nero, M.D., F.A.C.C.



CURRICULUM VITAE
Thomas J. Nero, M.D., F.A.C.C.

Date: July 20, 2011

Personal Data:

Name:	Thomas J. Nero	Address:	271 Guinea Rd
Birth date:	July 31, 1967		Stamford, CT 06903
Birthplace:	Mansfield, Ohio	Phone:	917-670-3418
Citizenship:	USA	Email:	tn65@columbia.edu

Academic Training:

Columbia University, Columbia College, New York, NY Philosophy of Religion	B.A.	1989
Ohio State University, College of Medicine, Columbus, OH Licensed - New York, Connecticut and California	M.D.	1994

Traineeship:

Intern Department of Medicine, Beth Israel Medical Center	1994 - 1995
Resident Department of Medicine, Beth Israel Medical Center, New York Learn and Earn Program (concurrent House Physician Beth Israel Singer Division, CCU and Telemetry Units)	1995 - 1998
Fellow in Cardiology, Cardiology Division, Department of Medicine, Beth Israel Medical Center, New York, NY	1998 - 2001
Fellow in Interventional Cardiology, Cardiology Division, Department of Medicine, Beth Israel Medical Center and St. Luke's/Roosevelt Hospital, New York, NY	2001 - 2002

Board Qualification:

Board Certified - Internal Medicine	1998
Board Certified - Echocardiography	2001
Board Eligible - Nuclear Cardiology (Level II)	2001
Board Certified - Cardiovascular Disease	2011
Fellow American College of Cardiology	
Board Certified - Diplomat - Interventional Cardiology	2002

Professional Organizations and Societies:

- Columbia College Varsity Track, 1985-1989, Varsity Letter Winner, Varsity "C" Club member
- Bioethics Discussion Group, Co-Founder 1990-1992
- Environmental Ethics Working Group, 1991-1992
- Medical Humanities Steering Committee, Co-chair 1991-1992
- American Medical Students Association, National Convention Representative 1991-1994
- Landacre Research Society (Hon) 1992-1994
- American Heart Association, 1998-present
- Fellowship in the American College of Cardiology, 2006
- Hands For Life CPR/AED Program- Stamford Hospital , Director 2008-2012

Academic Appointments:

- Fellow Coordinator, Cardiac Intensive Care Unit 1999- 2002
St. Francis Hospital, Roslyn, NY
- Faculty, Department of Medicine 2002-2003
St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center, New York, NY
- Faculty, Department of Medicine 2003-2006
Beth Israel Medical Center, New York, NY
- Assistant Professor of Medicine 2008-present
Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons

Hospital Appointments:

- Lab Assistant, Neuro-Immunology 1986-1998
St Lukes-Roosevelt Hospital & Columbia College of Physicians & Surgeons
(Auto-immune basis for MS-like Demyelinating Disease)
- Lab Manager, Neurotoxicology and Developmental Teratology 1989-1990
Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons
- Research Associate, OSU Environmental Ethics Working Group Summer 1991-1992
- Attending Physician, Phillips Ambulatory Care Center 1996-1997
Beth Israel Medical Center, New York, NY

Physician, Neurology Intensive Care Unit Beth Israel Singer Division Institute for Neurology and Neurosurgery, New York, NY	1997-1999
Attending Physician (Medicine and Cardiology) Beth Israel Medical Center, New York, NY	2002-2006
Attending Physician (Medicine and Cardiology) St. Lukes and Roosevelt, New York, NY	2002-2005
Attending Physician (Cardiology) Stamford Hospital, Stamford, CT	2006-Present

Honors:

US Army Academic Excellence Award, 1985

National Merit Scholar, 1985

Meiyerson Research Grant, Columbia University, Monoclonal Antibodies in MS-like Demyelination Disease, 1988

Roessler Memorial Scholarship, OSU College of Medicine, *Physician's Obligations to Society*, 1991

Letters of Commendation, Internal Medicine, Emergency Medicine and Family Practice, OSU College of Medicine, 1993

"Hero's Award" American Red Cross, Fairfield County, CT 2010

Grant Support:

Co-Investigator, PROTECT TIMI 30 Study

Co-Investigator, JOSTENT® Coronary Stent Graft. Emergent treatment for coronary artery perforation and treatment of coronary aneurysms, pseudoaneurysm and arterial-venous fistula. [Jomed].

Co-Investigator, LU 135252 on Left Ventricular Dimensions and Functions, LV Mass, Neurohormone Levels, and Symptoms in Patients with Advanced Congestive Heart Failure. MRI evaluation of LV Mass and Function. 1999-2001

Co-Investigator, A Randomized, Double-blind, Positive and Placebo-controlled Multicenter, Dose-ranging Study to Assess the Efficacy, Tolerability and Safety of SB 217242 In Patients with Stable NYHA Class II-III CHF. 1999-2001.

MRI evaluation of LV Function. Quantification of Segmental Left Ventricular Function in Dobutamine Stress Cardiac Magnetic Resonance Imaging. 1999-2001

Teaching Experience and Responsibilities:

Primary teacher/Mentor to 6 Interventional Cardiology fellows for 2003-2006.
Primary faculty for coronary angiography, angioplasty, hemodynamics lecture series.
"Door to Balloon" Committee Stamford Hospital
Critical Care Committee, Stamford Hospital
Hypothermia Protocol for Cardiac Arrest
"Hands For Life" Stamford Founder-Director

Publications

Peer Reviewed Articles:

Hutchings DE, Brake SC, Banks AN, Nero TJ, Dick LS, Zmitrovich AC. Prenatal delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol in the rat: effects on auditory startle in adulthood. *Neurotoxicol Teratol.* 1991 Jul-Aug;13(4):413-6.

Hutchings DE, Zmitrovich A, Brake SC, Malowany D, Church S, Nero TJ. Prenatal administration of methadone using the osmotic minipump: effects on maternal and offspring toxicity, growth, and behavior in the rat. *Neurotoxicol Teratol.* 1992 Jan-Feb;14(1):65-71.

Shteerma E, Singh V, Nero T, Lee M, Wilentz J, Menon V. Images in cardiovascular medicine. Acute myocardial infarction in uncorrected tetralogy of fallot. *Circulation.* 2002 Jul 23;106(4):e13-4.

Lee MS, Singh V, Nero TJ, Wilentz JR. Cutting balloon angioplasty. *J Invasive Cardiol.* 2002 Sep;14(9):552-6.

Lee MS, Wilentz JR, Makkar RR, Singh V, Nero T, Swistel D, Belsey SJ, Simon C, Rametta S, DeRose J. Hybrid revascularization using percutaneous coronary intervention and robotically assisted minimally invasive direct coronary artery bypass surgery. *J Invasive Cardiol.* 2004 Aug;16(8):419-25.

Lee MS, Nero T, Makkar RR, Wilentz JR. Treatment of coronary aneurysm in acute myocardial infarction with AngioJet thrombectomy and JoStent coronary stent graft. *J Invasive Cardiol.* 2004 May;16(5):294-6.

Presentations:

American Heart Association/NASCI, Nov 6, 1999. "Quantification of Cardiac MRI"

Cardiology Grand Rounds, Beth Israel Medical Center, April 9, 1999. "Peripartum Cardiomyopathy"

Cardiology Grand Rounds, Beth Israel Medical Center, Mar 13, 2000. "Cardiac MRI, State of the Art"