Testimony of

Hospice Southeastern Connecticut

Before the Legislature's Public Health Committee

10:00 AM, Friday March 16, 2012

Room 1D, Legislative Office Building Hartford, Connecticut

My name is Bernice LaRochelle. I am in Billing Services for Hospice Southeastern Connecticut. **I am submitting testimony in support of House Bill 5499 (Raised) An Act Concerning Regulations Relating to Hospice Care.**

- Of the 5150 hospice providers in the US, one in five also operates an inpatient facility. CT has only 1 inpatient facility licensed under regulations from 35 years ago.

- A Hospice Residence would provide a place for quality end of life care when home care, hospital care or skilled nursing home care are not appropriate or possible. The 12 private rooms would have access to the outside garden, accommodations for family to visit and stay overnight with their loved one. The Residence would provide a relaxed atmosphere where you can find a cup of tea in the kitchen, sit in the great room to read, find a quiet place for reflection in the library, take time to find solace in the non-denominational chapel, gather with family in the dining room.

- Please support HB 5499 which requires the Department of Public Health to adopt the Inpatient Hospice Regulations 19a-122b-1 to 19a-122b-14.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions at 860-848-5699 or blarochelle@hospicesect.org.