Cheryl Clark
538 Berkshire Road
Southbury, CT 06488

3/15/2012

Dear Sen. Gerratana, Rep. Ritter, Rep. Perillo, and Sen. Welch,

I urge you to support the Hospice Facility Regulations 19a-122b-1 to 19a-122b-14 created by the Department of Public Health (DPH), with the proposed revision of words: **Shall be authorized to operate a hospice facility, including a hospice residence, for the purpose of providing hospice services for terminally ill patients who are in need of hospice home care or hospice inpatient services. The hospice facility including a hospice residence , must be able to provide the following levels of hospice care: routine, general inpatient , continuous or respite.**

These regulations are sorely needed and will provide opportunities for licensed hospice providers throughout the state to offer terminally-ill patients access to all levels of hospice services both in home and in facilities within their own communities. They will allow for small hospice residences (usually 12 or fewer beds) to be built in areas around the state where accessibility to all levels of hospice care is currently a problem (Greater Danbury, Southeastern CT and Fairfield County to name a few). These hospice residences will be close to home and convenient to friends and family with less worry about travelling distances/hours to visit. They will also offer enhanced hospice care provided by hospice designated and trained staff in a home-like setting (not a nursing home or a hospital). Overall, they will ensure greater patient and family satisfaction at end-of-life.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important hospice issue.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Clark