

Testimony of  
Hospice Southeastern Connecticut  
Before the Legislature's Public Health Committee  
10:00am, Friday March 16, 2012  
Room 1D, Legislative Office Building Hartford, CT

My name is Lisa DeCarlo. I am a clinical nursing supervisor at Hospice Southeastern Connecticut. I am submitting testimony in support of House Bill 5499 An Act Concerning Regulations Relating to Hospice Care.

These regulations would allow the full continuum of hospice care. This includes care in the home, hospital, skilled nursing facility, and a hospice residence. Currently there are only two hospice residences in Connecticut.

Terminally ill patients and their families in Southeastern Connecticut deserve to have access to a hospice residence with a homelike environment when care in the home is not possible.

I have worked as a hospice nurse for Hospice Southeastern Connecticut for nearly five years. Throughout these years I have seen many family members struggle with the decision to determine an end of life plan for their loved one. Often, due to the patient's physical symptoms as well as the family's emotional distress, they are unable to provide care in the patient's or their own home. In these cases, the patients and families often suffer, as usually their only option is to have the patient placed in a nursing facility.

While local nursing facilities provide excellent care to their residents, most do not have hospice trained nurses to provide care to terminally ill patients. A hospice residence would solve this problem as many families would like their loved one to be cared for by an inpatient hospice, but are not able to travel the distance to one of the two hospices in our state, both of which are over an hour away.

I urge you to support HB5499 **to ensure quality, state of the art care, and** access to hospice care for all residents of our state. Thank you for considering my testimony. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions at 860-848-5699 or [ldecarlo@hospicesect.org](mailto:ldecarlo@hospicesect.org).