



State of Connecticut  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE PATRICIA M. WIDLITZ  
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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

March 16, 2012

## In Opposition to HB 5499 - An Act Concerning Regulations Relating to Hospice Care

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter, and my fellow Members of the Public Health Committee, I write today to express my opposition to **HB 5499, An Act Concerning Regulations Relating to Hospice Care**.

Almost forty years of experience have helped establish rigorous standards for Connecticut's hospice care regulations. Thanks to this, Connecticut citizens have high-quality inpatient hospice care in two-thirds of the state's hospitals as well as Connecticut Hospice in Branford. Connecticut Hospice is, in fact, the birthplace of hospice care in America. They set the model for care, and continue to set a high standard for full-service hospice.

To reduce our standards to the minimum federal guidelines would be a giant step backwards in patient care. These patients are our parents, our brothers and sisters, our children and our friends. They deserve more than the minimum.

I urge you to reject HB 5499. Any dilution our standards would be an injustice to our current and future hospice patients.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia Widlitz".

Patricia Widlitz  
State Representative, 98<sup>th</sup> District