



**TESTIMONY OF**  
**To: Public Health Committee**  
**From: Bill Stanley**  
**Vice President, Development & Community Relations**  
**Lawrence & Memorial Hospital – New London**  
**SB 275, An act Concerning Workplace Violence Prevention and Reporting**  
**Wednesday, March 7, 2012**

This letter is in support of **SB 275, An Act Concerning Workplace Violence Prevention and Reporting**.

Last year, the Public Health Committee voted out SB 970, An Act Concerning Workplace Violence Prevention And Response in Health Care Settings. Enactment of that bill resulted in a significant improvement in Connecticut hospitals' commitment to their employees to reduce and prevent violence in the workplace. This has been a priority for the Connecticut Hospital Association, Lawrence & Memorial Hospital and other hospitals around the state.

Many different stakeholders – hospitals, unions, advocates for the mentally ill, police, firefighters and other emergency personnel – worked together diligently last year to ensure this bill became law.

Statistically and anecdotally the new law has reduced the incidence of violence and disruption in the delivery of care here at L&M. This allows not only for better delivery of care, but ensures a greater degree of safety for our patients, employees and visitors.

In the months since the bill became law, however, there has been some confusion over when police should be called. SB 275 can alleviate that confusion. Specifically, there will be a mandatory call to police in the event of death, loss of consciousness, choking of a person such that air or blood is cut off, or any injury that requires medical attention beyond first aid, as well as any verbal threat of inflicting any of those injuries or harms when a healthcare employer reasonably believes the threat is real, immediate and that the aggressor is capable of carrying it out.

I respectfully urge you to support SB 275 to implement necessary changes to Public Act 11-175. Thank you.