

TESTIMONY OF
BRISTOL HOSPITAL & HEALTH CARE GROUP
SUBMITTED TO THE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
Wednesday, March 7, 2012

SB275, An Act Concerning Workplace Violence Prevention And Reporting

Bristol Hospital & Health Care Group appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 275, An Act Concerning Workplace Violence Prevention And Reporting**. Bristol Hospital & Health Care Group supports this bill.

Healthcare workers throughout our system experience potentially dangerous situations while caring for patients in our hospital, the community, and clinics. We firmly believe in ensuring the safest work environment for our staff and our patients.

Last year, the committee originated SB 970, *An Act Concerning Workplace Violence Prevention And Response in Health Care Settings*. This was a significant step in furthering our commitment to reduce and prevent violence in the workplace. The bill, which was crafted with input from multiple sources, was designed to anticipate various contingencies and circumstances regarding how the law would apply to real situations. Since we have implemented the provisions of the bill, we have identified some confusion in the interpretation of the bill. We ask that SB 275 be established to clarify a clear threshold for notifying police when an incident occurs based on the harm that is suffered by a workforce member. Pursuant to SB 275, all of the following will require a mandatory call to the police: 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.

Bristol Hospital & Health Care Group urges you to implement these necessary changes to Public Act 11-175.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

For additional information, contact the Bristol Hospital Safety Manager at 860-585-3854.