

**TESTIMONY OF
GREENWICH HOSPITAL
SUBMITTED TO THE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
Wednesday, March 7, 2012**

SB 275, An Act Concerning Workplace Violence Prevention And Reporting

On behalf of Greenwich Hospital, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 275, An Act Concerning Workplace Violence and Reporting.**

Greenwich Hospital is a 206 bed community hospital with nearly 2000 employees and over 600 medical staff. At Greenwich Hospital, Service excellence is a top priority. The hospital is a recipient of the prestigious Summit Award which recognizes facilities for maintaining superior patient satisfaction.

Greenwich Hospital supports SB 275 because we believe that protecting healthcare workers is and should continue to be a high priority. When we create a safe working environment for our employees, we also ensure that they perform at the highest level when administering patient care. For our employees, patients and visitors, we have a robust security service which includes a Health Stream educational program; installation of over 200 panic buttons; state of the art camera system with 275 cameras throughout campus; and provide workplace violence training to high risk areas (ED, BHU and registrars). We also have a workplace violence committee, made up of staff from all areas that review issues and progressively discuss solutions and future training. Greenwich Hospital has a zero tolerance for workplace violence and that if an issue comes up police are called immediately. Further, we have installed a guard tour system with 88 checkpoints to ensure Security Officers are patrolling our hospital campus as a deterrent.

We agree that Public Act 11-175, which originated in this committee, was a significant step forward in furthering the commitment of healthcare facilities to reduce and prevent violence in the workplace. The bill was crafted to anticipate certain contingencies and its application to actual situations. However, some provisions of the new law may result in uneven application, and we agree with the Connecticut Hospital Association that we need to clarify the details of the legislation in a way that will both enhance the law and prevent unintended law enforcement proceedings.

We want the goals of Public Act 11-175 to be fully realized, and SB 275 will clarify when law enforcement must be called. Specifically, SB 275 establishes a clear threshold for notifying police when an incident occurs, based on the harm that is suffered by a workforce member. SB 275 will require a mandatory call to the police when the following occurs: 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.

We urge you to implement these necessary changes to Public Act 11-175 and support SB 275.

Thank you for considering the position of Greenwich Hospital.