



Public Health Committee
March 16, 2012
In opposition to bill HB 5434

The Institute of Medicine recommendations on emergency room care: 2007

“While today’s emergency care system offers significantly more medical capability than was available in years past, it continues to suffer from severe fragmentation, an absence of system wide coordination, and a lack of accountability. These shortcomings diminish the care provided to emergency patients and often result in worsened medical outcomes. To address these challenges and chart a new direction for emergency care, the committee envisions a system in which all communities will be served by well-planned and highly coordinated emergency care services that are accountable for performance and serve the needs of patients of all ages within the system.”

Few of the recommendations of this report have been implemented and the design of care delivery has remained, except in some hospitals, pretty much the same. Patients need our hospitals to leave behind the land of steady habit and work on systematic changes to providing safe patient care.

Healthcare harm is pervasive throughout our healthcare system. Report after report substantiates the problem and yet rather than demanding of our hospitals fundamental transformation of care delivery, the hospitals and emergency room doctors are here seeking exemption from accountability.

This does not serve us, the patients well. The CT Center for Patient Safety urges you to not vote HB 5434 out of committee. Please put patient needs first.

Jean Rexford, Executive Director