

**Testimony of**

**Hospice Southeastern Connecticut**

**Before the Legislature's Public Health Committee**

**10:00 AM, Friday March 16, 2012**

**Room 1D, Legislative Office Building Hartford, Connecticut**

My name is Ellen Giggi. I am a secretary and receptionist for Hospice Southeastern Connecticut, in Norwich. **I am submitting testimony in support of House Bill 5499 (Raised) An Act Concerning Regulations Relating to Hospice Care.**

I'm asking if you would please support HB 5499 which requires the Department of Public Health to adopt the **Inpatient Hospice Regulations 19a-122b-1 to 19a-122b-14**. These regulations are about the dying patients and families in every corner of Connecticut having access to the full range of hospice care services. These contemporized regulations preserve the hospital standard set in Connecticut 30 years ago and establish a regulatory environment that allows for other models of inpatient hospice care that suit their respective communities. Patients and families in every corner of Connecticut deserve access to an inpatient hospice model that suits their communities. **These regulations are supported by 28 of the 29 hospice providers in the state.**

Connecticut has only 1 inpatient facility licensed under regulations from **35 years ago**. People in our community are unhappy that the only residence available in Connecticut is in Branford. It's just too far away for visitation, so they must settle for other care options. At the present moment, Connecticut ranks last, or 51st (including Washington DC) in average length of stay for Medicare hospice days (National average is 71, CT is 49). Of the 5150 hospice providers in the United States today, one in five also operates an inpatient facility.

We need your support to help us provide this care option to more Connecticut residents. Please support the Department of Public Health in moving the regulations forward to the Regulations Review committee.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions at 860-848-5699 or [egiggi@hospicesect.org](mailto:egiggi@hospicesect.org)