



**BRIDGEPORT HOSPITAL**  
YALE NEW HAVEN HEALTH

**TESTIMONY OF  
BRIDGEPORT HOSPITAL  
SUBMITTED TO THE  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, March 7, 2012**

**SB 275, An Act Concerning Workplace Violence Prevention And  
Reporting**

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

Bridgeport Hospital is a 425-bed, full service, acute care teaching hospital that provides high-quality care to all our patients. In addition to over 60 subspecialties, Bridgeport Hospital houses the only specialized burn care facility between New York and Boston, and is also the site of southern Connecticut's only multi-person Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy chamber, which aids in the treatment of stubborn wounds. Additionally, Bridgeport Hospital continues to be a safety net for our community by providing healthcare to our patients regardless of their ability to pay.

Bridgeport 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. We currently have a full time security force on staff, and we have installed cameras in our buildings and on the external areas of our campus. Additionally, we have an employee workplace violence prevention committee in place that is working to improve policies and education for employees, while also improving the process for employees who want to report any safety or security concerns.

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 are now in a position 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.

Thank you for considering our position.