



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

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

Middlesex Hospital appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning SB 275, An Act Concerning Workplace Violence Prevention And Reporting. Middlesex Hospital supports this bill.

Protecting healthcare workers is one of the most important priorities for healthcare employers. Hospitals want to ensure that healthcare worker safety remains a top priority. Last year, this committee originated SB 970, An Act Concerning Workplace Violence Prevention And Response In Health Care Settings. This was a significant step forward in furthering the commitment of healthcare facilities to reduce and prevent violence in the workplace, a goal that Middlesex Hospital strongly support.

The safety and security of our patients, visitors, staff and volunteers is of utmost importance to Middlesex Hospital. In addition to our Security Department providing highly trained officers 24 hours a day, the Hospital utilizes badge key card access to limit door access, surveillance cameras to monitor our facility, and parking gates to control traffic patterns. All Hospital staff, volunteers and contractors are provided with photo identification. Middlesex Hospital maintains an active, multidisciplinary Workplace Violence Prevention Committee and maintains an excellent working relationship with the Middletown Police Department.

Many different stakeholders came together with the legislature to craft SB 970, which passed as Public Act 11-175. 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. While last year's bill was a great first step, when implemented, the provisions describing when to call police caused confusion. This confusion may result in uneven implementation.

Now that we have several months of experience in complying with Public Act 11-175, we are in a better position to clarify the details in a way that will both enhance the law and protect persons at risk of being inadvertently swept up into law enforcement proceedings.

Middlesex Hospital wants the goals of Public Act 11-175 to be fully realized. In order to achieve those goals, we have crafted SB 275 to 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. 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.

We urge you to implement these necessary changes to Public Act 11-175.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

/aac