TESTIMONY OF
Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center
SUBMITTED TO
THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
Wednesday, March 7, 2012

SB 275, An Act Concerning Workplace Violence Prevention and Reporting

Saint Francis appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 275, An Act Concerning Workplace Violence Prevention and Reporting.** Saint Francis 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 CHA and its member hospitals strongly support.

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 have caused confusion. This confusion may result in uneven implementation of the law.

Now that hospitals and other affected organizations have had several months of experience in complying with Public Act 11-175, Saint Francis would like to offer some suggestions that could both enhance the law and protect persons at risk from being inadvertently swept up into law enforcement proceedings.

Saint Francis wants the goals of Public Act 11-175 to be fully realized. In order to achieve those goals, CHA and its members 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 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 healthcare employer reasonably believes the threat is real, immediate, and that the aggressor is capable of carrying it out.

Saint Francis urges you to implement these necessary changes to Public Act 11-175.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.