



**TESTIMONY OF
Jeffrey Flaks, President & CEO
HARTFORD HOSPITAL**

**SUBMITTED TO THE TRANSPORTION COMMITTEE
March 12, 2012**

**HB 5458, AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL AUTOMATED TRAFFIC
ENFORCEMENT SAFETY DEVICES AT CERTAIN INTERSECTIONS**

Dear Chairman Maynard, Chairman Guerrero, and members of the Transportation Committee:

As the President and CEO of Hartford Hospital, I urge you to support Raised Bill No. 5458 which would give Connecticut municipalities the ability, if they so choose, to utilize red light safety cameras to make busy local intersections safer for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers.

I support this legislation because our community at Hartford Hospital has been directly impacted by reckless drivers on busy Retreat Avenue, adjacent to our hospital. Two of our employees have been killed by drivers violating traffic laws over the past few years. In 2010, Robert Suljoti was struck and killed nearby by a driver who ignored traffic laws, and Sandra Hoyle was killed the same year in a hit-and-run accident caused by a driver who ran a red light. These avoidable tragedies occurred on our doorstep.

Safety is one of our core values. All Hartford Hospital patients, visitors and staff expect – and deserve, a safe environment. We are the only Level 1 Trauma Center in the area. We are the home of LIFE STAR. We know what happens when things go wrong, and we owe it to our patients, to their families and to everyone who works at Hartford Hospital to make the area as safe as it can possibly be.

That is why I support the use of red light safety cameras. A strong body of research shows that these cameras change driver behavior, reduce serious accidents, and save lives. According to a 2011 report by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS), the use of red light cameras in large U.S. cities reduced fatalities by 24 percent and saved more than 150 lives. Had cameras been in use in all major cities – such as Hartford-- between 2004 and 2008, more than 800 deaths could have been prevented. Perhaps those of our two employees as well.

Red light cameras are a proven intersection safety technology, one that could help make the roads around Hartford Hospital safer for our employees and for all of the residents of Hartford.

I urge you to support Raised Bill No. 5458 to give Connecticut municipalities the option to use these intersection safety cameras. Thank you.