



**TESTIMONY OF YALE-NEW HAVEN HOSPITAL
SUBMITTED TO
THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

Monday, March 12, 2012

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

On behalf of Yale-New Haven Hospital, thank you for providing an opportunity to submit testimony in support of Raised Bill 5458, An Act Concerning Municipal Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Devices at Certain Intersections.

Yale-New Haven Hospital, including Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital, Yale-New Haven Psychiatric Hospital and Smilow Cancer Hospital, strives to provide sensitive, high-quality health care to all our patients, and serves as a primary care center for thousands of New Haven-area residents and a referral center for patients from around the state and country. With nearly 9000 employees, Yale-New Haven is the second largest employer in New Haven and continues to be the State's largest hospital provider of services to people covered by Medicaid. Reaching into the community, we enhance student learning through a number of hands-on partnerships in our schools; provide support to local non-profits; build homes with our employees through a partnership with Habitat for Humanity; and remain a sponsor of the nursing program at Gateway Community College.

Yale-New Haven Hospital supports Raised Bill 5458, as it will promote safety and traffic calming, not only around the hospital's campus, but also throughout the City of New Haven and other municipalities throughout the State of Connecticut. More specifically, the bill seeks to authorize municipalities to use automated traffic enforcement safety devices at approved locations. As the only level 1 trauma facility in the region, Yale-New Haven Hospital often treat the effects of catastrophic injuries caused by motor vehicle accidents – injuries that can take an economic and emotional toll on individuals and families.

As a result, we support initiatives that will promote safety at intersections, including the devices that are being recommended in the bill. Studies by the Institute for Highway

Safety show that enforcement programs often reduce the citywide rate of fatal red light running crashes, and to a lesser but still significant extent, the rate of all fatal crashes at signalized intersections. The safety consequences of running red lights are considerable and further studies of urban crashes shows that running red lights and other traffic controls was the most common type of crash. The proposed legislation will reduce crashes and their severity, while providing for safer communities. This will give residents peace of mind as they walk, bike, and drive on city streets.

Hospital emergency departments are usually inundated with patients, and any measure to help reduce the volume of patients can only make it easier for physicians to provide more specialized care.

Yale-New Haven Hospital employs nearly nine thousand individuals, and we treat a vast number of patients on a daily basis. Additionally, through our affiliation with the Yale School of Medicine, many medical students and other clinicians use our facilities. These individuals navigate busy city streets to get to various locations on the hospital's large campus, and therefore keeping them safe is a high priority for us. Careful measures that would help to promote safety and encourage motorists to be more attentive are needed.

We encourage you to support this bill, and thank you for considering our position.