



**State of Connecticut**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

**REPRESENTATIVE EDWIN VARGAS**  
SIXTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
ROOM 5008  
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8582  
TOLL FREE: (800) 842-8267  
FAX: (860) 240-0206  
E-MAIL: Edwin.Vargas@cga.ct.gov

**MEMBER**  
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
COMMERCE COMMITTEE  
COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

Testimony by Representative Edwin Vargas  
6th District Hartford  
Public Health Committee  
February 20, 2013

**Raised Bill 5977 AN ACT REQUIRING PROMPT DISCLOSURE OF  
CHILDREN'S MEDICAL TEST RESULTS TO PARENTS.**

I want to thank the Co-Chairs and the Ranking members as well as the entire membership of this committee for the opportunity to testify on HB 5977. I introduced this bill along with Rep. Peggy Sayers after learning of the tragedy of 12 year old Rory Staunton in New York. Rory, who had been admitted to the hospital after becoming ill from a bruise suffered while playing sports, had been tested for sepsis. Unfortunately, although his blood test showed evidence of a possible infection, these lab results were neither shared with his parents nor with his doctors. Young Rory was discharged and subsequently died of sepsis. This death could have been prevented by antibiotics.

Since then it has been widely reported that sepsis is one of the leading causes of death in our nation. Governor Cuomo swiftly instituted measures that would require hospitals to follow a series of protocols and regulations to minimize future tragedies of this kind. These include:

The screening and early recognition of patients with sepsis, severs sepsis and septic shock; a process to identify and document individuals appropriate for treatment through severs sepsis protocols; and Guidelines for treatment including for early delivery of antibiotics.

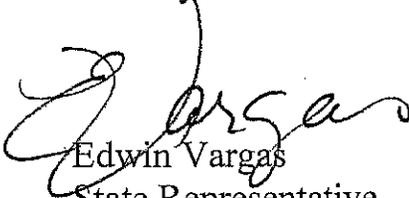
Ensure that all test results are reviewed upon completion by a physician, physician assistant or nurse practitioner; Ask the identity of a patient's primary care provider, if any, on admission, and forward all test results to that primary provider; Prohibit the discharge of a patient until test results that may reasonably be expected to yield "critical values" –indicating a life-threatening or a condition requiring immediate medical attention – are completed and communicated; and Communicate prior to discharge all categories of tests ordered, all critical value test results, and what, if any (non-critical) tests are still pending; and carry out such communication in plain, understandable terms to the patient or the patient's parent or medical decision-maker, as appropriate.

The pediatric regulations also will make other key reforms to the delivery of pediatric care, such as requiring hospitals to: Enable parents or guardians to stay with pediatric patients while they are receiving care, including permitting at least one parent or guardian to remain with the pediatric patient at all times; Ensure that hospitals admitting children have appropriate staff, resources and age-appropriate equipment and establish policies and procedures for transferring children when needed and appropriate.

I also want to clarify that is not our intent to have this law supersede any constitutional or statutory right to privacy or protections that minors currently may enjoy. The narrow scope of this bill is to protect minors from the dangers posed by sepsis. The state of New York has been the first in the nation to act on this matter, so let us follow its example and let Connecticut be the next state that protects its young people and spares countless families the suffering of needlessly losing a child.

I appreciate your time and attention and I wholeheartedly encourage you to raise this bill.

Thank you



Edwin Vargas  
State Representative