



# University of Connecticut Health Center

## **PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE TESTIMONY**

**MARCH 15, 2013**

**Mike H. Summerer MD, FACPE**

**Chief Executive Officer, John Dempsey Hospital**

**Assistant Dean for Education Assistant Clinical Professor, University of Connecticut Health Center  
and**

**John Mancini, Fire Chief, University of Connecticut Fire Department**

### **H.B. No. 6518 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson, Senator Welch, Representative Srinivasan, members of the Public Health Committee, my name is John Mancini, Fire Chief, University of Connecticut Fire Department and I am here today on behalf of the University and Mike Summerer, Chief Executive Officer, John Dempsey Hospital and Assistant Dean for Education and Assistant Clinical Professor, University of Connecticut Health Center (Health Center) who could not be here due to a scheduling conflict. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today in support of HB 6518 An Act Concerning Emergency Medical Services.

The UConn Health Center is home to the School of Medicine, School of Dental Medicine, John Dempsey Hospital, UConn Medical Group, UConn Health Partners, University Dentists and a thriving research enterprise. The Health Center campus consists of 37 buildings totaling over 2.1 million square feet on 200 of acres. We have over 5000 employees and more than 500,000 medical encounters occurring on our main campus annually. With this volume, the Health Center maintains active fire and police departments to ensure the safety and security of our employees, students, patients and visitors.

The Health Center's fire department has had a long history of serving as first responders whenever there is a medical need on campus. 16 of our firefighters are also certified paramedics and while our first responders are first on the scene to stabilize a patient, current law does not allow them to transport that patient to a higher level of care on the Health Center campus, which is typically to the John Dempsey Hospital emergency room. Current law requires us to contact a private ambulance service to move that patient to our emergency room, which could be just yards away. We have seen an increase in the number of medical incidents on campus requiring emergency medical transport, from 56 in 2009 to 134 in 2012. Having to call an outside provider to transport the patient to our emergency room, even after our first responders have stabilized the patient, is inefficient and creates significant delays in needed patient care.

The language in Lines 197 -201 would allow the Health Center paramedics and fire department to transport Health Center patients or staff suffering a medical emergency on the Health Center campus to the John Dempsey Hospital emergency room, if needed, and not have to contact an outside emergency medical services firm to do so. I strongly urge you to support this legislation.

Thank you for your continued support of the University of Connecticut Health Center.

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