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To Members of the Public Health Committee

I am submitting testimony today in **opposition to HB 6393**.

In June of 2010 my husband Kenneth Lowman, a retired Stamford police sergeant experienced severe chest pains. I immediately called 911 and gave him aspirin and nitroglycerine. I am a certified registered nurse anesthetist.

My husband has suffered irreparable damage to his heart –due to a ER doctor who did not follow their own standard of care. The standard is to immediately treat a heart attack victim within 60 to 90 minutes – with a D2B procedure that was established by the American College of Cardiology and the American Heart Association. Instead, Ken was untreated for three hours and thirty three minutes before he was taken to the Cath lab. I informed the ER when we arrived that he had a history of heart problems and it took over 30 minutes to order an EKG. When I saw that EKG I could see that he was having an MI – he had indicators that showed elevations leading me to that conclusion. The response was that he did not look like the “kind of guy who was in distress.”

So much for science!

More time was wasted – more time during which the heart muscle was impacted.

It turned out that my husband had a blood clot blocking 100% of his LAD artery – the main artery to his heart. The delay in the ER caused damage – his septal wall was torn, anterior wall and anteroapical wall left him with an ejection fraction of 35%. He has become a cardiac cripple, on diuretics every day, second stage renal disease from the medication he is on. He no longer has a normal life.

We have not been able to hold the hospital legally accountable. Suits against ER docs are difficult – and in our case my husband was older, retired. But our state should not pass this bill and say ER docs who unnecessarily harm patients cannot be held accountable. What if my husband had been 40 years old and the breadwinner for three children? Who pays for substandard care? It should not be all of us as taxpayers – it must be the provider who has harmed a patient.

I am still shocked and stunned with what happened to my husband. Every day we live with the consequences.

I cannot think of one reason ER docs should have immunity.

Thank you for your consideration of my opposition to H.B. No. 6393.