

My name is Dr Ilona Figura

I am a Board Certified Palliative Care Physician and Hospitalist at ECHN I will join my colleagues on the DPH MOLST Committee, to testify at the March 15th Public Health Committee General Assembly Hearing to endorse Raised Bill #6521

Thank you for your attention

Dr Figura's Testimony – Mar 25, 2013

MOLST Pilot project

As a Hospitalist and Board Certified Palliative Care physician, I am reminded daily of the need for a system in Connecticut, such as MOLST, which honors patients end of life wishes across the continuum of medical care.

The majority of my patients are over 70, have advanced heart, lung or neurologic disease. When most present to the hospital in a crisis situation, it is the first time they are hearing their mortality is nearing and about aggressive treatment choices such as dialysis and intubation. A MOLST system would insure patients would have these important discussions long before they have to make these difficult and critical decisions on an emergent basis.

Another reason a MOLST system is so badly needed in Ct is that even if a patient has made an informed and thoughtful decision about forgoing aggressive life-prolonging treatments, it has to be readdressed at each medical facility they transition to (ER, ambulance from Hospital back to Nursing home, once at the Nursing home). A MOLST system would ensure their thoughtful, end of life wishes would be honored wherever they go.

Ilona Figura, MD

Hospitalist

ECHN Palliative Care Champion