

**TESTIMONY OF
Greenwich Hospital
SUBMITTED TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
February 20, 2013**

SB 189, AAC ELECTIVE ANGIOPLASTY FOR CERTAIN PATIENTS

Good Afternoon. My name is Frank Corvino and I am the President and CEO of Greenwich Hospital. I am here today to testify in support of **SB 189, AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTIVE ANGIOPLASTY FOR CERTAIN PATIENTS.**

At Greenwich Hospital, service excellence is a top priority. The hospital is a recipient of the prestigious Summit Award which recognizes facilities for maintaining superior patient satisfaction. Together with our nearly 2000 employees, Greenwich Hospital strives to provide sensitive, high-quality health care to all patients and offers a wide range of medical, surgical, diagnostic and wellness programs.

Among the services we offer, is primary (or emergency) angioplasty and we would very much like to add elective angioplasty to the cardiac services that we currently provide as a satellite of the Yale New Haven Heart and Vascular Center. There is a clear public need for this legislation as it will improve quality without increasing costs. The expertise and experience of the physicians and clinical staff assigned to the Greenwich emergency angioplasty program has been a major factor in that program's success. This same expertise and experience will benefit elective angioplasty patients if this bill is passed.

This is a very personal subject for me. I, myself, had a cardiac catheterization procedure at Greenwich Hospital. While undergoing the procedure, I was told I needed elective angioplasty. Next, I was advised that I would need to be transferred by ambulance to Yale-New Haven Hospital to have my very same cardiologist perform the procedure. I can speak first hand to the physical and emotional impact that this has on patients during one of the most difficult times in our lives.

Allowing hospitals that perform emergency angioplasty to also perform elective angioplasty will avoid the need for costly duplicate procedures and hospitalizations, which occurs when patients need to be transferred from one hospital to another for elective angioplasty. Currently, at Greenwich, once it is determined that an elective procedure is required, patients are transferred to a hospital with an approved elective program. Most of the time patients are transferred to Yale New-Haven, given the strong relationships among the cardiologists at the affiliated hospitals. So patients are put in an ambulance and transferred to New Haven where an elective angioplasty is performed by the exact same physicians who would have performed it at Greenwich if an elective program was authorized. This makes little sense. It can present patient safety issues and undue stress for patients and their families and the duplication of procedures costs patients and the healthcare system more money.

There is a clear public need for SB 189, which will enhance access to cardiac services and improve the quality and cost-effectiveness of care for cardiac patients in Connecticut. If a hospital offers emergency angioplasty, it has the infrastructure and expertise in place to perform elective angioplasty, a procedure that is far less complex.

We appreciate and thank you for your consideration and urge your support of this proposal.