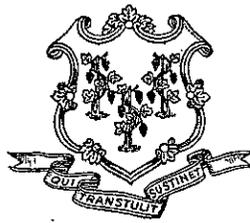


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February 20, 2013

Good afternoon Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson and Members of the Public Health Committee. I would like to express my support for SB 189, AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTIVE ANGIOPLASTY FOR CERTAIN PATIENTS. The state of Connecticut has a policy based on evidence based medicine that creates two types of certificates of need for cardiac surgery: emergency and elective. A larger number of hospitals are allowed to perform the emergency procedures as the circumstances surrounding these procedures require immediate action to save the life of the patient. However, because there is clear evidence that hospitals that perform more of these procedures have better outcomes, the elective procedures are allowed at fewer hospitals in order to create the high volumes that lead to these better outcomes.

In most cases this policy makes a great deal of sense. However, it has led to an irrational outcome in one situation; I became aware of this reality due to the harrowing experience of a relative who experienced the following scenario.