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Public Health Committee
March 20, 2013

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Testimony in OPPOSITION TO SB 1066: An Act Concerning Certificate of Need Application Guidelines and the Issuance of Decisions

As a union of over 26,000 healthcare workers in Connecticut, we oppose Senate Bill #1066, *An Act Concerning Certificate of Need Application Guidelines and the Issuance of Decisions*, proposed change to Sec. 2. Subsection (d) that would add "If the [Office of Health Care Access] fails to issue a decision on any completed application prior to the expiration of the applicable review period, such application shall be deemed approved on the day after the expiration of such review period and the office shall issue a certificate of need for the proposed project described in the application."

The mission of the Office of Health Care Access (OHCA) is "to ensure that the citizens of Connecticut have access to a quality health care delivery system." OHCA is supposed to serve as a critical check-and-balance guaranteeing that the people's healthcare needs come before the desires of any one healthcare company or entity.

At a minimum, the citizens of Connecticut deserve that an official decision be issued before any major expansion or consolidation of healthcare services.

We urge the Committee to remove this proposed language.

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