



Testimony of the Connecticut AFL-CIO  
Before the Labor and Public Employees Committee

February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Senator Osten, Representative Tercyak and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee,

We submit this testimony on behalf of the 900 affiliated local unions who represent 200,000 working men and women from every city and town in our great state on the following:

**Raised H.B. Bill 5257 An Act Concerning Hospital Employees and Hospital Conversions**

The Connecticut AFL-CIO strongly supports this bill as a necessary pre-condition to permitting for-profit entities to take over our community-based, non-profit hospitals. By its very definition, a for-profit hospital's first obligation is to its shareholders. To balance the legitimate concern that a for-profit would forfeit quality care and reduce staffing levels in a drive for profit, the bill provides some measure of safeguards and transparency. We think it makes sense to have a community benefit agreement as described in the bill in order to ensure that health care workers' wages and benefits are not depressed by a for-profit entity. The economic health of our communities should not be jeopardized because a for-profit company reaps the benefits and most likely takes a portion of that profit out of state. A community benefits agreement that includes all 5 of the conditions listed in this bill would help to ensure that conversion works for the community not just for shareholders.

Respectfully Submitted,

Todd G. Berch

CT AFL-CIO