

Joan Haines RN
SB 438
3/19/14 Public Hearing

I am writing today, March 15th asking for your support for Senate Bill 438, An Act Concerning Certification of Stroke Centers and the following are my reasons why.

__I have been the Facilitator of the Wethersfield Stroke Club, a support group for stroke survivors and their families for 34 years one of the first such groups in CT.

__I have seen many changes in treatment over the years and until recently there was no treatment only rehab

__Now that there is hope with the medication tPA and other surgical interventions and these can only be done in Primary Stroke Centers because of their staff's expertise, not found in community hospitals

__Coordination is necessary for EMS services to get a person experiencing any symptoms of a stroke to a hospital considered a Primary Stroke Center as quickly as possible because it is now considered an emergency 911 call

---There are time limits for treatment now so there should be designated hospitals throughout our state known to EMS not only to increase survival rates but decrease severe disabilities

__After the acute phase, these centers have specialized staff to coordinate rehabilitation plans to help the survivor get on with their once again and certainly lessening the cost to the state

In conclusion:

There is so much to be hopeful for now in the treatment of stroke please keep CT. in the forefron of these advances and not go backwards!!

The medical community is working to do their part and this state must do their part to make stroke less debilitating and to your advantage less costly to our state

Thank you,
Joan Haines RN