

Sherry Stohler RN, MSN SB 438

**Public Health Committee Public Hearing  
March 19, 2014**

Testimony on Raised Bill 438  
An Act Concerning Certification of Stroke Centers

Good afternoon Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson and distinguished members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Sherry Stohler and I am submitting written testimony to ask for your support for **Senate Bill 438, An Act Concerning Certification of Stroke Centers.**

I am a Registered Nurse and have worked in the state of Connecticut for over thirty years. In my past roles as an Emergency Department RN and a Flight Nurse on the LIFE STAR Critical Care Helicopter, I have cared for many stroke patients. I have witnessed, first hand, how the transport distance to the closest Certified Stroke Center can significantly impact a patient's outcome. Like a heart attack or a major trauma, stroke patients have a time critical medical emergency that if not treated within an acceptable window of time can lead to permanent disabilities and a compromised level of function.

For citizens who are fortunate enough to leave in proximity to a Certified Stroke Center, their chance of survival and a full recovery from a stroke is greatly increased. Why should any citizen in Connecticut, based on the location of their home or work, have to experience compromised medical care because of a lack of Stroke Certified hospitals in our state?

I ask that you support Bill 438: An Act Concerning Certification of Stroke Centers on behalf of the citizens of Connecticut.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions at:

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