



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CONNECTICUT, INC.®  
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## Public Health Committee

March 19, 2014 Public Hearing

Comments Submitted by Alison Rivard, Vice President, Public Issues

### Comments on:

**HB 5571 (Raised)**

**AN ACT CONCERNING CERTIFICATE OF NEED REQUIREMENTS, HOSPITAL  
CONVERSIONS AND MEDICAL FOUNDATIONS**

**SB 460 (Raised)**

**AN ACT CONCERNING HOSPITAL CONVERSIONS AND OTHER MATTERS  
AFFECTING HOSPITALS**

The League of Women Voters of Connecticut is a statewide organization with over 1600 members committed to effective public policy and the active involvement of citizens in their government. We appreciate the opportunity to submit comments on HB 5571 and SB 460 before you today.

The League of Women Voters across the U.S. believes that public policy in a pluralistic society must affirm the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices. Here in Connecticut, LWVCT has been concerned that recent proposed hospital mergers would have a significant adverse impact on women's and men's access to reproductive health care. With the rapid changes in the health care environment and business strategy across the country, such combinations and affiliations between hospitals are likely to increase within this state.

The League of Women Voters of Connecticut supports legislation that would require hospital combinations and affiliations to maintain all essential medical services necessary in order to provide safe and adequate treatment within the affected community. These services should include appropriate access to health care, including reproductive health services, and health care delivery to residents of the state.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on this bill.



**Testimony, Public Health Committee, March 19, 2014**  
**S.B. 460, AAC Hospital Conversions and Other matters Affecting Hospitals**  
**H.B. 5571, AAC Certificate of Need Requirements, Hospital Conversions and Medical Foundations**

**My name is Sal Luciano. I am the president of the Connecticut AFL-CIO and executive director of Council 4 AFSCME.** I am also a Watertown resident. Waterbury Hospital is my neighborhood hospital, and where my family is treated for hospital based health care.

I endorse the remarks of Barbara Simonetta, the President of the Waterbury Hospital AFSCME health care employees, and Gary Storrs, AFSCME International's labor economist. SB 460 and HB 5571 are steps in the right direction to protect the public from the harm that for-profit hospital conversions often cause. There is still need for more protection for the public than is currently in these bills.

For instance, there is no language in the bills that would prevent Tenant or other for-profit corporations from buying a Connecticut hospital, borrowing against its assets, shifting its assets into another corporation out-of-state or off-shore, bankrupting it and leaving Connecticut patients, workers and taxpayers liable for the debt and social damage. Sadly, this sort of corporate plundering of an otherwise viable corporation is not uncommon. We urge you to include language that would protect Connecticut citizens from such disastrous financial machinations.