



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

Representative Jeffrey J. Berger
Deputy Speaker
73rd Assembly District
Waterbury

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Testimony in Support of

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**SB 460 An Act Concerning Hospital Conversions and Other Matters
Affecting Hospitals and
HB 5571 An Act Concerning Certificate of Need Requirements,
Hospital Conversions and Medical Foundations
March 19, 2014**

Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak before you this morning in support of Hospital Conversion bills. Thank you for taking a leadership role in this very important issue.

In an ever changing landscape for healthcare delivery it is important that the Legislature and the committees of cognizance have a role. I share the concerns and want to ensure that Waterbury Hospital continues to provide affordable, quality care and good jobs with existing retirement security agreements to maintain excellent staffing. The hospital must also provide not only the community benefits it does now, including care for the uninsured, but put in place other protections and ongoing oversight of service levels to ensure that the hospital priorities are community based.

I have always had a firm commitment to continue the community based model that is the history of Waterbury Hospital and understand that what we do now is critical to the future model of not for profit to profit. I support providing important protections before any sale or a merger is approved.

Thank you for allowing me to testify on this important issue. I look forward to working with you in the future as we shepherd these hospitals into a new frontier.