



**TESTIMONY OF
LAWRENCE + MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
NEW LONDON, CT
SUBMITTED TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH
March 19, 2014**

**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**

Lawrence + Memorial Hospital appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony concerning both **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**.

Good morning. I am Bill Stanley, Vice President for Development + Community Relations at Lawrence + Memorial Hospital in New London, and I am testifying in opposition to both of these bills.

Both pieces of legislation would have a negative impact on Connecticut's hospitals, regardless of whether they are or, potentially, will be for-profit or not-for-profit. The bills would add complex and onerous requirements for hospitals undergoing conversion and for the party or parties seeking to acquire the hospital.

The language in HB 5571 is especially restrictive at a time when hospitals and those who operate them need the flexibility to be able to adjust clinically, financially and logistically to keep pace with the rapidly changing healthcare landscape, both here in Connecticut and nationwide.

The state of Connecticut already has very strong and protective hospital conversion laws and a stringent Certificate of Need process with which hospitals have complied for years. We believe existing laws and processes provide for high levels of patient access, safety and quality of care while allowing Connecticut's hospitals the maneuverability we need to meet our changing needs and those of our patients.

Bogging down this process with numerous additional requirements at a time when our hospitals are already facing difficult financial and operational challenges has the very real potential to

negatively impact patient care.

SB 460 would also significantly increase the regulatory requirements for hospitals – both with the state Department of Public Health and the state Office of the Attorney General. As drafted, it would also create an unnecessarily burdensome regulatory process that will prevent, or at the very least discourage, hospitals and healthcare systems from forming strategic partnerships that would benefit everything from quality of care to healthcare access.

I hope you will agree with our position and oppose both of these bills.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration of our position.