



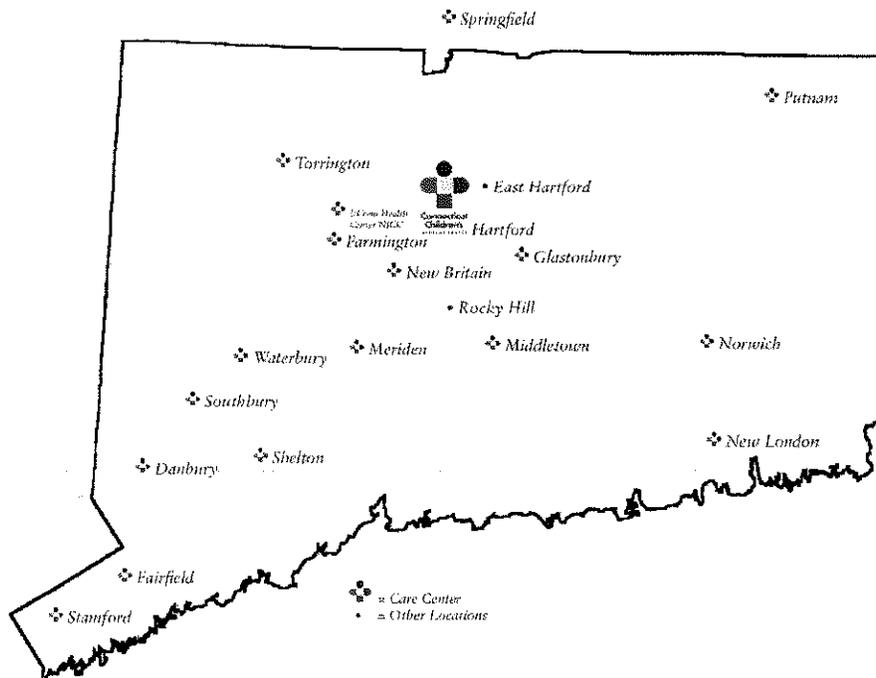
**Testimony of the Connecticut Children's Medical Center  
to the Public Health Committee regarding  
*Senate Bill 460 An Act Concerning Hospital Conversions and Other Matters  
Affecting Hospitals*  
March 19, 2014**

Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson, members of the Public Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts about *Senate Bill 460 An Act Concerning Hospital Conversions and Other Matters Affecting Hospitals*. My name is Martin Gavin, and I am President and CEO at the Connecticut Children's Medical Center. I am submitting this testimony in opposition to the proposed legislation because it will have a negative impact on the way hospitals provide care, irrespective of their current or future tax status.

Connecticut Children's is the only hospital in the state that cares exclusively for children and it is a critical asset to all of us in Connecticut. As a center for vital research, a pioneer in new treatments, a trailblazer in advanced technology, and a teacher of future pediatric professionals, Connecticut Children's is advancing the health and wellness of all of our children, and fostering a healthier future for our state.

All children should have the health care they need to grow and learn. Connecticut Children's offers the full spectrum of pediatric medical care to children from each of Connecticut's 169 cities and towns. On a typical day at Connecticut Children's more than 1,200 patients will walk through our doors, more than 153 children will visit the Emergency Department, and more than 40 children will undergo surgery.

Guided by the vision of making the children of Connecticut the healthiest in the nation, Connecticut Children's has been providing quality care since opening its doors in 1996. The map below shows Connecticut Children's existing footprint in communities around the State.



In 2013, Connecticut Children's provided children and families with access to a comprehensive system of 21 provider locations and community-based programs designed to promote children's healthy development. Of particular note, we opened our new surgery center in Farmington, and expanded access to critical services including cardiovascular surgery, Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation, and our pediatric transport program. In 2014, we will expand access to primary care services by moving into our new, larger facility on New Britain Avenue in Hartford.

Connecticut Children's researchers brought in nearly \$16 million in federal and private research dollars this year, contributing to the viability of the State's emerging bioscience corridor. Included in this total was a \$10.5 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to fund the national Pediatric Inflammatory Bowel Disease Collaborative, a national program housed at Connecticut Children's, and a Hyundai Scholars Award for Cardiovascular Research.

In addition to the benefits for families, the State of Connecticut also derives specific benefits from our integrated model of pediatric care. Our new vision is to make children in Connecticut the healthiest in the nation. Community child health is highlighted as one of the six primary pillars of Connecticut Children's new strategic plan. Some might suggest that focusing on keeping children healthy is illogical for a children's hospital with inpatient beds to fill. However, promoting each child's optimal healthy development is not only the right thing to do for children and families, its emphasis on cross-sector collaboration and efficiency makes strategic sense in the context of national health reform.

At a time when the entire healthcare system is undergoing unprecedented change, expanding regulatory mandates impedes hospitals' ability to improve and adapt. The State of Connecticut already has hospital conversion laws and a strong Certificate of Need (CON) process to which hospitals are subject. As you know, the Connecticut General Assembly has considered many and implemented multiple changes to CON requirements over the years. The current regulatory environment preserves patient access, safety, and quality of care while allowing hospitals the flexibility to meet their changing needs. SB 460 as drafted includes changes that are unreasonably broad. For the number of required items in a CON submission to go from the current seven to 46 is but one example of the unwieldy burden imposed by the proposed legislation. The costs to hospitals like Connecticut Children's would make progress unaffordable.

SB 460 could have unintended consequences by negatively impacting hospitals' ability to innovate and implement changes that promote broader access to optimal health care outcomes. In 2011, Connecticut Children's extended access for the State's most vulnerable citizens by expanding our Neonatology services to include the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at the UConn Health Center in Farmington. This change resulted in many benefits to patients and families. In addition to offering the highest level of neonatal care in the area, expanding our NICU services allowed Connecticut Children's to implement advanced care models and broaden our opportunities in the areas of neonatal research, education and training. Outside the walls of the units themselves, the expanded NICU helped to attract the highest quality pediatricians, neonatologists, obstetricians, and other clinical health care professionals to the State. Regulatory burdens such as those proposed in SB 460 could have made this change cost-prohibitive, preventing our smallest patients and their families from benefitting from the expanded access we provide today.

Thank you for your consideration of our position. If you have any questions about this testimony, please contact Jane Baird, Connecticut Children's Director of Government Relations, at 860-837-5557.