

Good evening, first I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. My name is Ashley and I am a senior Social Work major at Southern Connecticut State University. I am writing to you to testify in favor of the Public Health Committee bill #5385 that would require hospitals to have language interpreters. I am in favor of this bill because there are many people in this country who have not yet learned the English language, or who may not know it well enough to fully understand the language. At my internship I have witnessed first-hand the struggle of now having an interpreter for non-English speaking citizens. Not being able to fully understand the English language makes it very hard for people to survive and get the proper healthcare needed. Someone who is in opposition of this bill may argue that because this is the United States of America, and the primary language spoken here is English, that everyone should know English and we should not have to provide an interpreter for someone not knowing the language. I would have to say that although it is true that the English language is the primary language in this country, that our country is a melting pot which is filled with people from all countries and backgrounds. With our country being the "Land of the Free," anyone who has made our country their home should have the right to an interpreter in order to better their experience at our hospitals, and in turn better the health of our country. People come to our country for opportunities, which they cannot fully receive if they do not understand what is being said to them. Requiring hospitals to have a language interpreter would also give more jobs to more people, which would promote economic growth, and possibly lower the percent of unemployment. Once again, I would like to testify that I am in support of the Public Health Committee Bill #5385, and I would like the committee to vote the bill favorably out of committee. Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedule to read my testimony.

Sincerely,  
Ashley