



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

## Testimony

### In Support of Proposed H.B. No. 5933 AN ACT CONCERNING USE OF RED LIGHTS AND SIRENS BY CHIEFS OF SECURITY AT ACUTE CARE HOSPITALS

Transportation Committee  
February 23, 2015

Chairman Maynard, Chairman Guerrera, Senator Boucher, Representative O'Dea and distinguished members of the Transportation Committee:

I am Representative Eric Berthel and I am testifying in support of H.B. No. 5933 An Act Concerning Use Of Red Lights and Sirens By Chiefs Of Security At Acute Care Hospitals.

This bill is requesting a change to the existing statute regarding the issuance of a red light and siren permit, to add the ability of the twenty-nine Chiefs of Security at the twenty-nine acute care hospitals in Connecticut to obtain this permit. There has been some chatter about this bill since I proposed it, and just for clarification, this bill does not extend the issuance of this permit to any other security personnel in the acute care hospitals – it is strictly limited to the Chiefs of Security. In consideration of this bill, I believe there are several factors that should be examined.

During emergency situations such as terrorists attacks, wide spread health epidemics and natural disasters, Chiefs of Security are and need to be one the first responders on the scene. They serve as the interface between the police department, fire department and emergency medical services and the hospital facility. This crucial role between the emergency personnel and the public is the corner stone of this legislation. Security Chiefs know the hospital facility better than anyone as they are responsible for the safety of not only those affected but staff as well.

In closing, this legislation would provide an extra layer of security and increase the safety net for all residents of Connecticut.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Eric C. Berthel".

Eric C. Berthel – 68<sup>th</sup> District