



UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE  
FOUNDATION OF CONNECTICUT

**Testimony in Support of House Bill 5324:  
An Act Concerning the Definition of “Urgent Care Clinic” and Requiring the Provision of  
Charity Care  
Submitted by Lynne Ide, Director of Program & Policy  
Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut  
February 23, 2015**

Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut (UHCF) is an independent, nonprofit foundation working to shape our state's health care system to provide quality, affordable care and promote good health for all state residents.

We are concerned about the growth of “urgent care clinics” in the state, the impact they may be having on cost of care and that they may be operating without appropriate protections for consumers. We therefore strongly support the purpose of H.B. 5324 to clearly define “urgent care clinic.” Our concerns include whether there are discrepancies between an urgent care clinic’s actual capacity and function and how these entities code and bill for their services. For example, if an urgent care clinic is billing as an emergency room, when it, in fact, is not a fully functioning emergency room entity, this would be a discrepancy that can increase costs for patients.

We reserve judgment on the requirement for urgent care clinics to provide charity care until more is known about their definition, function, services, billing protocols, and other critical information. We encourage more scrutiny and possible regulation of these entities as health care providers for residents of Connecticut.