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**Testimony by Christian M. Pettker, MD In Support of
Proposed Bill No. 258, An Act Concerning Infant Safe Sleep Practices**

Public Health Committee
February 20, 2015
Submitted by Christian M. Pettker, MD

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter,

I am Christian Pettker, a physician in clinical practice in the State of Connecticut at the Yale School of Medicine and Yale-New Haven Hospital. I am currently Chief of Obstetrics at Yale-New Haven Hospital and an Associate Professor in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Sciences.

I, without reservation, support Proposed Bill No. 258.

This bill would require hospitals to provide informational materials regarding recommended safe sleep practices for infants, including American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations concerning safe sleep practices, to parents after the birth of a child at the hospital.

It is clear that the safe sleep practices that would be involved in this recommendation are evidence based and are simple measures to prevent newborn deaths. I have known countless new families who have lost their children during sleep. Often times the cause of death can never be determined, but we do know in the field of newborn medicine that safe sleep practices are an important preventive measure to prevent these episodes in our patients.

On a personal level, I just adopted a newborn infant from the State of Florida. I was lucky enough to take my daughter home at the time of discharge and was impressed that the State of Florida had enacted a measure much like Proposed Bill No. 258. It was an important part of the discharge materials I received and no doubt it has been an important education element for new parents.

For the reasons above, I support Proposed Bill No. 258.

Respectfully submitted,



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