

**TESTIMONY OF
SAINT FRANCIS HOSPITAL & MEDICAL CENTER
SUBMITTED TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
Friday, February 20, 2015**

SB 857, An Act Concerning Licensure For Genetic Counselors

Saint Francis Hospital & Medical Center appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 857, An Act Concerning Licensure For Genetic Counselors**.

Genetic counselors provide information and support to families who have members with birth defects or genetic disorders and families who may be at risk for a variety of inherited conditions. These counselors identify families at risk, interpret information about disorders, analyze inheritance patterns and risks of recurrence, and review available options with the individual/family. During the 2014 Legislative Session, Saint Francis worked with the Connecticut Hospital Association, genetic counselors, and other interested parties to support legislative language that would create a scope of practice for genetic counselors that establishes credentialing standards and continuing education requirements, and recognizes the individuals currently serving as genetic counselors.

The scope of practice for genetic counselors was reviewed during the 2014 Department of Public Health scope of practice review process. The Connecticut Hospital Association participated in the Review Committee. Saint Francis supports the findings and conclusions identified in the report "An Act Concerning the Department of Public Health's oversight Responsibilities Relating to the Scope of Practice Determinations for Health Care Professions: Genetic Counselors," and urges the Public Health Committee to take positive action on this bill.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.