

STATEMENT OF SETH VAN ESSENDELFT
IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL NO. 5506

I am the Chief Financial Officer of Lawrence and Memorial Hospital located in New London, Connecticut. Lawrence and Memorial Hospital and William W. Backus Hospital brought an action to the Connecticut Supreme Court regarding the proper interpretation of the workers' compensation law as it related to hospital bills.

After many years of litigation, the Connecticut Supreme Court ruled unanimously in favor of Lawrence and Memorial Hospital and Backus Hospital.

By agreement of everyone involved, these cases represented test cases and were to control the outcome in several thousand cases pending before the Workers' Compensation Commission on behalf of a number of Connecticut hospitals.

In June of 2015, in Public Act 15-5 §459, the implementer bill, a provision was included which some argue was intended to overrule the Supreme Court decision and to apply to the many cases pending before the Workers' Compensation Commission.

This action was taken without any input or even knowledge of our hospital that it was taking place.

If this implementer provision is allowed to stand, it may require the Workers' Compensation Commission to hold hearings in several thousand pending cases.

We hope that the General Assembly will make clear that it did not intend to overrule the Supreme Court's decision.

Dated at New London, Connecticut, this 4 day of March, 2016.



Seth Van Essendelft