

Testimony of Tom Swan, Executive Director of the Connecticut Citizen Action Group (CCAG)

Public Health Committee

February 24, 2016

In support of RB 5211 and PB 5174

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and members of the public Health Committee, my name is Tom Swan and I am the Executive Director of the CT Citizen Action Group (CCAG). On behalf of CCAG's member families I want to thank you for your work over the last two sessions to address the changing hospital landscape in Connecticut. As today's hearing shows the work is not complete and will not be this session.

CCAG supports HB 5211 AAC CERTIFICATES OF NEED due in large part to the train wreck we are witnessing in Eastern Connecticut as a result of Hartford Hospital's dismantling of Windham Hospital. These changes are threatening access to care for thousands of people and making it very difficult for families to actively support their families care due to transportation challenges. I want to make clear that we believe that OHCA failed to fulfill their responsibility on this deal and that our comments should not in any way be used to undermine any potential litigation challenging the cuts.

The changes Hartford hospital is imposing are not only impacting people's access to quality care, but also show a real lack of the commitment to the communities in the service area. If there is any doubt all one has to look at are the Community Needs Assessments non-profit hospitals have to submit to the IRS. The changes in Windham hospital's filing after the takeover by Hartford Hospital are alarming both in what is analyzed and who was asked to participate. We recommend that you consider amending this or some bill that requires hospitals to address how they are addressing Connecticut's public health goals as part of these filings.

CCAG also supports HB 5174 AAC SALARIES FOR NONPROFIT HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATORS. The level of compensation that many administrators are raking while spending millions of dollars on media campaigns crying poor is shameful. We recommend having this be broadened to capture all types of compensation that hospital executives receive.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to working with you to address the changing health care landscape as we move forward.