

**Testimony of Tom Swan**  
**Before the Public Health Committee**  
**February 17, 2017**  
**In support of HB 6035, SB 248, SB 451, and HB 6015**  
**In opposition 5168**

Senator Gerratana, Senator Somers, Representative Steinberg and other members of the Public Health Committee, my name is Tom Swan and I am the Executive Director of the Connecticut Citizen Action Group (CCAG). I am testifying today on behalf of our member families and want to thank you for raising a series of bills that will help working families.

I will group my testimony into two areas: hospital oversight and consumer protection.

The recent changes in the health delivery landscape in Connecticut has been drastic in recent years with significant consolidations in the hospital sector and the purchasing of provider practices. The evisceration of services at Windham Hospital, the failure of Prospect Health to live up to their promises after taking over the Eastern Connecticut Health Network, and the lack of clear guidelines for the emerging hospital/provider networks are proof that our regulatory landscape is inadequate.

We had hoped the Governor's Executive Order creating the CON task force in a thorough review of a future regulatory framework, but do believe that it did make some solid recommendations. Towards this end, we support HB 6035 AN ACT CONCERNING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATES OF NEED and SB 248 AN ACT REQUIRING A CERTIFICATE OF NEED FOR THE REDUCTION OF SERVICES AT A HOSPITAL.

We also oppose 5168 AN ACT CONCERNING MANDATE RELIEF FOR HOSPITALS. While we recognize that some mandates should be reviewed, we believe that any review must be considered in a larger context of a future regulatory framework.

I want to commend your raising of SB 451 AN ACT PROTECTING PATIENTS FROM UNREASONABLE MEDICAL BILLS and HB 6015 AN ACT PROTECTING PATIENTS AGAINST SURPRISE OUT-OF-NETWORK MEDICAL BILLS. The recent emergence of this type of fee is part of the shifting landscape described above and punish patients. We believe that we should ban these types of charges and if we don't we should mandate that they are not covered under insurance and with protections for low income consumers.

Thank you for your consideration.