Yale New Haven Health System (YNHHS) is pleased to submit this testimony in support of **HB 5669, AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLIC HEALTH QUARANTINE LAWS.**

Yale New Haven Health System, through Bridgeport, Greenwich, Lawrence & Memorial, Yale New Haven and Westerly Hospitals, and their affiliated organizations, including the North East Medical Group, strives to provide access to integrated, high-quality, patient-centered care in collaboration with others who share our values. We are submitting testimony in support of amending state law to ensure that all public health orders be grounded in scientific evidence and will allow state and local officials to better tailor their response to future public health emergencies.

We, at Yale New Haven Hospital (YNHH), have seen the need for amending state law first hand. In 2014, a student at the Yale School of Public Health was quarantined at Yale New Haven Hospital after returning from West Africa. The student had traveled to Liberia in September 2014 along with another Public Health student. Upon their return on October 11, they were quarantined in their homes despite the fact that the first student had tested negative for Ebola and the second was without any signs or symptoms suggestive of an infection with Ebola. On October 15, the first student developed a fever. Yale Health and YNHH, with agreement from the CT Department of Public Health, jointly decided to transport him from his home to YNHH. On October 16, his first US test result returned negative for Ebola. On October 17, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) confirmed by separate testing in their laboratory that he was in fact negative for Ebola. At this time, the YNHH doctors removed the patient from Ebola isolation. Despite negative tests at both the CT DPH and CDC laboratories, state officials issued a new quarantine order requiring this student to remain in his home.

This quarantine order issued by the State was not warranted based on both laboratory results and the conclusion of medical experts. Quarantine actions that lack medical justification adversely affect the public health, hospitals and individuals. Unjustified use of quarantine law may dissuade public health workers from traveling abroad to assist with public health epidemics and provide humanitarian support. As part of a world-renowned academic medical center, we encourage our health care professionals to pursue this type of work to further our mission. Unjustified quarantines also compel unnecessary resource use, diverting these resources from other important needs.

Current law must be amended to ensure that individuals receive judicial oversight before being detained, while still allowing the State to protect the public health in legitimate emergency situations. YNHHS supports both SB 37 and HB 5669 to strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of public health; properly conserve health care resources; and ensure public trust.