

Name: Nancy Sylvain

Title:

Organization or Agency:

Topic: SB00181 - AAC EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT CROWDING.

General Comments

Testimony:

I was very sick and went to our local ER where I was treated for flu symptoms and dehydration and then sent home. Still very ill, I returned to the same ER a week later. Unable to diagnose me, I was given medicine for a migraine and sent home. Early the next morning (4 am), I had my husband take me to the emergency room at Yale New Haven Hospital in New Haven. I was admitted to the emergency room where I would stay for 52 hours in a hallway. I was in extreme pain, unable to sit, stand, or lay down for more than a few minutes at a time. After finally getting a bed, I exhibited stroke symptoms and was whisked away by the stroke team. While I didn't have a stroke, the neurology department diagnosed me with meningitis in my brain and spine with Bell's Palsy as a result of undiagnosed Lyme Disease from 6 weeks prior. I was very ill. The hospitalist at one point told me I was the sickest patient on the floor as she held my hand and promised me that she would make sure I got better. My experience was unfortunately not uncommon, as the emergency room was PACKED with other patients also waiting for a bed. As I was being taken to my room, I was shocked to see that patients like myself also lined many hallways, as the emergency room was too full to accommodate them. And this was at one of the top hospitals in the country. I support the work that this committee is doing to help address emergency room inadequacies.