

**TESTIMONY
OF
YALE NEW HAVEN HEALTH SYSTEM**

**Public Health Committee
March 25, 2003**

SB 1148, An Act Concerning Outpatient Surgical Facilities

Yale New Haven Health System, comprised of Bridgeport, Greenwich and Yale-New Haven Hospitals, strongly supports **SB 1148, An Act Concerning Outpatient Surgical Facilities**. SB 1148 seeks to require outpatient surgical facilities using specified levels of sedation or anesthesia to obtain a license from the Department of Public Health and a Certificate of Need from the Office of Health Care Access.

All acute care hospitals in Connecticut are licensed by DPH and are regulated by OHCA. This governmental oversight is intended to protect the public. Entities that are not hospitals, but want to provide the same surgical services as hospitals, should be subject to the same level of quality and regulatory oversight as hospitals. DPH and OHCA, in their respective regulatory roles, each play a critical part in healthcare access, health system planning, and quality oversight in Connecticut.

Patients who undergo surgery in an outpatient setting have the right to know that their surgery will take place in a properly equipped surgical facility that has been licensed by DPH and approved by OHCA, regardless of where it is, who owns it, or how it is structured. SB 1148 would accomplish this by correcting the present situation that allows certain outpatient surgical facilities to escape the rigorous level of quality and regulatory oversight that applies to hospital-owned surgical facilities.

For the good of all patients in Connecticut, and to improve patient safety, outpatient surgical facilities that perform similar services should be subject to equal regulatory oversight. Please support SB 1148.

Thank you for your consideration.