

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Connecticut Hospitals Appeal to Blood Donors at Critical Time**

June 30, 2006, Wallingford, CT – Connecticut is currently suffering from a critical blood shortage of more than 500 units – well below the level deemed necessary to meet ongoing statewide demand.

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) is concerned that with July 4<sup>th</sup> rapidly approaching, blood supplies will continue to dwindle, since many people will be away for the holiday. Connecticut hospitals join the American Red Cross in urging eligible individuals to donate blood in the upcoming week.

“This is a critical time for the American Red Cross and for Connecticut hospitals,” said Jennifer Jackson, President and CEO of the Connecticut Hospital Association. “Hospitals exist to support healthy communities – but we cannot do this successfully without your help. We are asking potential donors to support their hospitals by contacting the Red Cross and giving the ‘gift of life.’”

If you are 17 or older, weigh 110 pounds or more and are in generally good health, please call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE to make an appointment to give blood. You may also request an appointment by visiting [www.bloodct.org](http://www.bloodct.org). Positive ID is required at the time of your blood donation.

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