**Testimony of Victoria Veltri**
**State Healthcare Advocate**
**Before the Public Health Committee**
**In support of SB 916**
**March 11, 2015**

Good afternoon, Representative Ritter, Senator Gerratana, Senator Markley, Representative Srinivasan and members of the Public Health Committee. For the record, I am Vicki Veltri, State Healthcare Advocate with the Office Healthcare Advocate ("OHA"). OHA is an independent state agency with a three-fold mission: assuring managed care consumers have access to medically necessary healthcare; educating consumers about their rights and responsibilities under health plans; and, informing you of problems consumers are facing in accessing care and proposing solutions to those problems.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 460, AAC Hospital. Connecticut's health care marketplace is evolving and the principles promoted by SB 916 support the need for transparency as stakeholders strive to navigate this changing landscape.

The notices required by parties engaged in the conversion of a non-profit hospital to a for-profit model are appropriate and reasonable, and enables the Attorney General and the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health to review the proposed transaction and weigh the potential impact of the public interest in affected communities.

Hospitals are integral parts of their communities and SB 916 advances the principles of transparency in these proposed transactions, seeking to ensure that each affected community has the opportunity to benefits that are implicit in the non-profit model. The Attorney General or the Commissioner's review of

the effect conversion would have on a hospital's ability to continue to meet the public interest, including access to care for all in the affected community is indicative of this principle, reinforcing the idea that all of Connecticut's residents must have access to affordable, quality healthcare.

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to deliver OHA's testimony today. If you have any questions concerning my testimony, please feel free to contact me at victoria.veltri@ct.gov.