



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE DANIEL J. FOX
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MEMBER
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
REGULATION REVIEW COMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

November 7, 2011

Mr. Rich Wysocki
Office of CON & Rate Setting
Department of Social Services
25 Sigourney Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5033

Re: Certificate of Need
Proposed Closure of Richard L. Rosenthal Hospice Residence, Stamford, CT

Dear Mr. Wysocki:

My name is Daniel Fox and I am a resident of Stamford and serve as a State Representative from Stamford for the 148th District in Connecticut's General Assembly.

I appear today as both a state representative and a Stamford resident to urge great caution when contemplating the future of this facility.

Speaking as a state representative, over the past several weeks I have had the opportunity to learn of this facility's past and heard from many constituents as to the significant impact the Rosenthal Hospice has had upon their lives. In addition, I have had the opportunity to speak to several individuals involved in both state agencies and state government as to the future of this facility and hospice care in general in the State of Connecticut.

Speaking as a Stamford resident, on July 16, 2011, a dear family member passed within the walls of this facility. Although her death occurred much quicker than we anticipated it was not unexpected; yet, that did not make it any easier. The care provided by the Rosenthal Hospice for both the decedent and just as importantly, her family, was remarkable and I believe unlike the care available anywhere else in the surrounding area.

Stamford and its neighboring municipalities are home to a number of skilled nursing facilities that may be able to provide hospice needs. As an attorney who has had clients in most, if not all, of these facilities I am aware of the high level of care offered by each; yet, I must emphasize the

importance of a community such as Stamford having a facility whose primary purpose is hospice care.

Now, I am not oblivious to the reality of our economic times and the economic realities that a facility such as the Rosenthal Hospice faces when attempting on a daily basis to maintain its high level of care. I am also not unaware of the changing scope of medical care particularly as it pertains to end of life care.

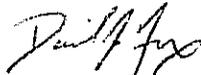
I am, however, aware of there currently being draft regulations within the state Department of Public Health that could potentially have a significant impact on the future of this facility and possibly other similar facilities throughout the state of Connecticut.

As a State Representative I serve on the Regulation Review Committee. It is the responsibility of this committee to review regulations proposed by state agencies and approve them before regulations are implemented.

Should the draft regulations out of the Department of Public Health provide an opportunity for a facility such as the Rosenthal Hospice or other similar facilities throughout the state to keep their doors open and allow for individuals to be treated with the same amount of care, respect and compassion as my family members and my beloved deceased family member experienced this past July you can be certain that as a member of the Regulation Review Committee such regulations will have my undivided attention.

I urge for the underlying application to be denied. If not, I respectfully request that the underlying application be modified so that the Rosenthal Hospice can continue to provide hospice care on a limited basis until any potential draft regulations can be reviewed and possibly implemented. Such action would allow the sick and terminally ill members of our communities and their families to be assured of the quality care that Rosenthal Hospice has provided on a continual basis for over the past ten years. Thank you.

Respectfully Yours,



Daniel J. Fox

State Representative, 148th District