

**The Connecticut Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery Society &
The Connecticut ENT Society's testimony
to the Judiciary Committee on March 26, 2007
On Senate Bill 1448 an Act Extending the State Physician Profile and Related
Malpractice Reporting Requirements to Certain Other Health Care Providers**

Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor and members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Jim Whalen, I am a board certified dermatologist practicing in Farmington Connecticut at the UCONN Health Center, I am here as president-elect of the CT Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery Society, representing over 90% of the dermatologists practicing in Connecticut and at the request of the Connecticut ENT Society to **support** Senate Bill 1448 An Act Extending the State Physician Profile and Related Malpractice Reporting Requirements to Certain Other Health Care Providers.

This bill as written would improve the compositeness of Connecticut's malpractice reporting data bank by adding those healthcare professionals, who carry medical liability insurance, but are not M.D.'s. For consumers this would mean there would be a comprehensive provider reporting system not just a limited and biased listing of select healthcare providers.

By all accounts health care is an interwoven delivery system. Many non-M.D. professionals have sought to increase their scope of practice through lobbying efforts on a legislative agenda. Most recently, advanced practice nurses have been granted independent practice with only M.D. oversight through written protocols verses on-sight supervision. Yet these advanced practice nurses are not held to the same reporting standards on malpractice claims as physicians. Podiatrists, optometrists, chiropractors and physician assistants have all gained advanced medical scope in Connecticut over the past five to ten years. Yet none of these healthcare providers are held to the same reporting standards as physicians. Does it make sense that these providers who are treating medical conditions and may have malpractice issues not report these settlements or judgments against them?

We strongly believe that any provider who carries medical liability insurance should all have the same standardized reporting requirements or there should be none at all. Consumers are not being served well if they are lead to believe that their healthcare provider who might happen to be a non-M.D. is clean of any pending or settled medical liability action, because their name does not appear in the data bank. Connecticut can surely do better than this and we support and applaud the efforts of this committee for bringing this important issue up for consideration.

Thank-you