

Connecticut Society of Eye Physicians
Written testimony on
Senate Bill 1448 An Act Extending The State Physician Profile and Related
Malpractice Reporting Requirements to Certain Other Health Care Providers
Presented to the Judiciary Committee
March 26, 2007

The Connecticut Society of Eye Physicians joins the Connecticut State Medical Society in urging you to support House Bill 1448, An Act Extending the State Physician Profile and Related Malpractice Reporting Requirements to Certain Other Health Care Providers.

The delivery of health care has become increasing complex and challenging in recent years. During this period, there has been a strong move to improve quality assurance and measure outcomes. Several years ago Connecticut sought to standardize consumer information in regard to medical liability claims through a national data bank. This reporting requirement unfortunately, only gave a limited snapshot of healthcare providers who carry medical liability insurance, because it focused only on the physician. It did not provide the consumer with a complete picture of the multitude of providers who carry medical liability insurance and treat medical conditions and may have medical liability issues pending.

SB 1448 seeks to improve the current system by providing a more complete view of all healthcare providers who may have settled or lost a medical liability case by using the all ready established data bank in Connecticut. It seeks to increase transparency, promoting consumer choice, by making all healthcare provider profiles available to the public for consideration. SB 1448 eliminates the false sense of security that could exist when a consumer looks up a non physician in the data bank and assumes there are no claims, because they do not see their providers name in the bank when, in fact, their name does not appear simply because the state does not require reporting of medical liability claims by non M.D.s.

The Connecticut Society of Eye Physicians strongly supports this bill as a consumer protection issue and as a fairness issue for all providers in the healthcare delivery system. Thank-you