



**Connecticut State Medical Society 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**

Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor and members of the Judiciary Committee, on behalf of the Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS) thank you for the opportunity to present testimony to you today in support of Senate Bill 1448 An Act Extending the State Physician Profile and Related Malpractice Reporting Requirements to Certain Other Health Care Providers.

As part of due diligence in finding a health care provider, many patients seek information regarding the physician's credentials, medical school and, malpractice awards and settlements on the internet as well as other resources prior to choosing a health care provider. We feel that this has proven to be valuable information for many patients seeking care. In addition, the work that CSMS, the General Assembly and several other stakeholders undertook in past sessions, led to the development of a system in which relevant information is provided while appropriately educating consumers about how it should be interpreted and used in making well informed medical care provider choices. However, there is a lack of consistency in providing this information to the DPH for health care providers other than physicians. Consumers sometimes turn to alternative providers to receive health care services and the lack of information about non-physicians could erroneously imply to patients that there are no patient safety issues with these providers and no malpractice track record.

The need for inclusion of all providers in the profiling system becomes more critical as these alternative healthcare providers push to increase the scope and complexity of the services they provide to patients. Too often we hear arguments before this body regarding the safety and/or lack of bad outcomes related to a profession without documentation or substantiation of a claim. The legislation before you today will require the collection of appropriate information related to malpractice awards, settlements and decisions for all health care providers who are required by the Connecticut statute to carry malpractice insurance. This will put all health care providers and professionals in Connecticut on equal footing and allow the public to more fully understand patient safety and quality in Connecticut. This will provide patients with critical information to guide their choice of providers.

The legislation before you will also supplement important legislation passed recently by this General Assembly. Public Act 05-275 established a process to collect information regarding malpractice awards, payouts, settlements, etc. in a manner to allow the State to get a better understanding of the professional liability crisis that the State continues to face. However, the legislation was limited to only a few types of health care professionals. We feel that in order to get a better understanding of the entire liability situation in Connecticut, all health professionals required to carry liability insurance should be included so that we can appropriately review the entire spectrum of professional liability situation.

This bill will allow for the public to access pertinent information in a manner that is consistent for all health care providers. As health care is focused on a team approach, information on a variety of members of the health care team needs to be available in a manner that is easy to comprehend and follows the familiar format of the physician profile.

**Please support Senate Bill 1448**