

**Public Hearing- General Assembly Proposed Bill HB- 6700  
An Act Revising the Scope of Podiatric Medicine**

**March 5, 2007 – Public Health Committee  
Written testimony of Michael Aronow, M.D.**

Dear Senator Handley, Representative Sayers, and fellow Members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Dr. Michael Aronow and I am an orthopaedic foot and ankle surgeon at the University of Connecticut Health Center. On behalf of myself and the Connecticut Orthopaedic Society, I would like to recommend enactment of General Assembly Proposed Bill HB- 6700, An Act Revising the Scope of Podiatric Medicine. This bill is based upon the recommendations of the podiatric arbitration panel convened by Commissioner Galvin to address potential changes in podiatric scope of practice with respect to ankle surgery. The recommendations reflect a consensus between representatives of the Connecticut Orthopaedic Society and the Connecticut Podiatric Medical Association with respect to creating a process to allow qualified practitioners of podiatric medicine to perform ankle surgery and also specifically define "ankle surgery".

We believe that enactment of this bill along with the specific regulations stated in Commissioner Galvin's January 2007 Report to the General Assembly would create a system that is fair to both qualified podiatric surgeons and the patients of the state of Connecticut. Only podiatric surgeons who meet the criteria of the American Board of Podiatric Surgery for board certification or qualification in reconstructive rearfoot/ ankle surgery would be allowed to independently perform ankle surgery. Podiatric surgeons would be allowed to independently perform standard or specifically defined advanced ankle procedures based upon their ability to document adequate training and experience via well defined criteria. All podiatric surgeons who have completed a 2 year or longer CPME accredited podiatric surgery residency would have the opportunity to meet the criteria for obtaining a permit to perform ankle surgery.

The process for granting standard and advanced ankle surgery permits will be fair and reasonably cost effective. The Connecticut Orthopaedic Society and the Connecticut Podiatric Medical Association have agreed to provide volunteer members to the Commissioner's advisory committee to review the applications and the criteria for obtaining the permits in the proposed regulations is very specific with little, if any, ambiguity.

In conclusion, I would like to thank our panel's arbitrator Harry Mazadoorian and Commissioner Galvin's representatives, Ms. Jennifer Filippone and Ms. Karen Buckley-Bates for helping us reach this agreement. I would also like to thank Drs. Joseph Treadwell and James Nugent for being willing to understand both sides of the issue and reach what I consider to be a very fair and workable compromise and urge the Public Health Committee and legislature to approve HB-6700.

Sincerely,

Michael S. Aronow, M.D.  
Associate Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery  
University of Connecticut School of Medicine  
Medical Arts and Research Building  
263 Farmington Ave  
Farmington, CT 06034-4037  
(860) 679-3111