

**Testimony of Steven Thornquist, M.D.**  
**On Behalf of**  
**The Connecticut Society of Eye Physicians,**  
**The Connecticut ENT Society and the Connecticut Dermatology and Dermatologic Society**  
**on**  
**Senate Bill 483 An Act Promoting Patient Safety and Access to Provider Information by Extending**  
**The State Physician Profile and Related Malpractice Reporting Requirements to Certain Other**  
**Health Care Providers**

**Presented to the Judiciary Committee**  
**March 3, 2008**

Good afternoon Senator McDonald, Rep. Lawlor and other distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee, for the record my name is Steve Thornquist, I am a board certified ophthalmologist practicing in Trumbull, CT and I am here as President of The Connecticut Society of Eye Physicians to support **SB483, An Act Promoting Patient Safety and Access to Provider Information by 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. In a quest for efficiency, the role played by many ancillary health care professionals has expanded. During this same period, there has been a strong movement to improve quality assurance and measure outcomes. Several years ago, to help achieve these goals, Connecticut sought to standardize consumer information in regard to medical liability claims through a data bank in the Department of Public Health. This reporting requirement, unfortunately, only gave a limited snapshot of healthcare providers who carry medical liability insurance because it focused only on physicians. Therefore, it did not provide consumers with a complete picture of the multitude of providers who carry medical liability insurance and may have pending medical liability issues.

SB 483 seeks to improve the current system by providing the people of Connecticut with a more complete view of all healthcare providers who may have settled or lost a medical liability case by using the data bank already established. It seeks to increase transparency and promote consumer choices, by making all healthcare provider profiles available to the public for consideration. SB 483 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 provider's name in the bank. In fact, the name of their provider may not appear simply because the state has not required reporting of medical liability claims by non M.D.s.

As we go forward, we must remain committed to quality health care and efficiency. As the role played by ancillary healthcare providers increases, so must the responsibility. The people of Connecticut face ever increasing costs and must have all the information they need to make decisions regarding their health care. This includes information about both physicians and ancillary providers – and information about how their health care dollars are being spent.

The Connecticut Society of Eye Physicians, the Connecticut State Medical Society and other specialty physician societies strongly supports this bill as a consumer protection issue and as a fairness issue for all providers in the healthcare. Thank- you