JUDICIARY COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING - SENATE BILL 483

I am here today in support of Bill No. 483, an act promoting patient safety and access to provider information.

There is an increase in the numbers of health care consumers seeking alternatives to our current delivery system. High co pays, health savings accounts with high deductibles, medical savings accounts, are just a few of the reasons that individuals are looking at alternatives to the traditional medical establishment.

Many patients go to the DPH web site seeking information regarding a physician's credentials, education level, malpractice settlements and awards prior to choosing a health care provider.

We need to include all health care providers on the Department of Public Health on that site. There have been important omissions - such as information on chiropractors. Patients might think that because there is no information that there are no safety issues and no malpractice claims against the provider.

Current physician profiles are very misleading as it is now written, because it says that it includes "all licensed physicians." Chiropractors are allowed by the State to refer to themselves as doctor and yet they are NOT medical doctors and the consumer ends up with incomplete information and an inaccurate impression of credentials.

Passing of this bill, which would include these healthcare providers, becomes more critical as these alternative healthcare providers push to increase their scope and complexity of the services they want to provide to their patients.

Healthcare providers who carry medical liability insurance should have the same standardized reporting requirements thereby providing the public with critical information that would improve patient safety and quality in Connecticut.

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