



**Public Health Committee**  
**March 3, 2008**  
**American Cancer Society Testimony**

**HB 5539 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE  
CONNECTICUT HEALTH QUALITY PARTNERSHIP.**

The American Cancer Society supports the intention behind **HB 5539- An Act Concerning the Establishment of the Connecticut Health Quality Partnership** which is to support quality improvement initiatives and enable consumers to make better informed choices with respect to health care providers.

Currently, the bill calls for representation from each health insurer licensed to operate in the state, the Connecticut Hospital Association, the Connecticut State Medical Society, the Connecticut Business and Industry Association, the Connecticut Pharmacists Association, a Connecticut-based quality improvement organization that has also been designated by the state as a patient safety organization, and the Commissioners of Social Services, Public Health and the Office of Healthcare Access, and the Healthcare Advocate, or their respective designees. However these last representatives are to be used as advisory positions only and shall be non-voting, ex-officio members of the Partnership.

We believe the citizens of Connecticut would be better served if the Partnership were expanded beyond those entities and individuals currently enumerated in the raised bill to include voluntary health organizations as well in order to better ensure the Partnership is able to address the full spectrum of health care issues.

Therefore, The American Cancer Society supports HB 5539 if amended to include voluntary health organizations as voting members of the Partnership.

We stand ready to assist the committee and proponents of the bill in any way we can to ensure Connecticut's citizens have the best access to information in order to better make informed health care choices.

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