



Connecticut State Medical Society Testimony in Support of
Senate Bill 462 An Act Concerning License Renewal Fees for Physicians
Presented to the Public Health Committee
March 3, 2008

Senator Handley, Representative Sayers and Members of the Public Health Committee, my name is Matt Katz and I am the Executive Director of the Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS). On behalf of our 7,000 members, thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony to you today in support of Senate Bill 462 An Act Concerning the License Renewal Fees for Physicians.

Last session, this committee, and ultimately the General Assembly, passed legislation to waive the licensure fee for physicians who provide at least 100 hours of patient care services without compensation. Unfortunately, since passage of Public Act 07-82 we have found that the definition limiting approved locations to a *public health facility, as defined in section 20-126l* fails to capture many locations in which retired physicians provide pro bono services and could benefit from the legislation.

We thank the committee for adding language to expand the allowable locations to include mobile health clinics. We believe this will increase the number of physicians who are able to take advantage of the public act and also encourage more physicians to provide pro bono services at approved facilities. This only benefits the health of Connecticut citizens.

While we appreciate the efforts of the committee and support the legislation, today we ask for the opportunity to work with you to develop legislation that captures all possible settings and ways in which retired physicians benefit the health of our citizens with no compensation. Furthermore, we ask work with this committee to develop a clear understanding for purposes of this legislation what would be considered the practice of medicine. Many physicians would argue that the practice of medicine extends far beyond the exam room and include much more than providing compensable services. These services would include but are not limited to mentoring new physicians or providing education services to promote wellness and healthy lifestyles. Not to mention providing supervision and oversight to other healthcare professionals in a variety of settings.

Once again we thank you for revisiting the issue this setting and ask for the opportunity to work with the committee to develop legislation that taps into the vast resources of Connecticut's retired physician community.