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# CONNECTICUT PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION

A COMPONENT OF THE AMERICAN PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION

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Testimony of Victor G. Vaughan PT, MS OCS, ATC  
Public Policy Committee Chair

in Support of

SB 344, AAC the Availability of Podiatry Services under the Medicaid Program  
Human Services Committee

February 5, 2009

Senator Doyle, Representative Walker and esteemed committee members. I am writing in support of SB 344, AAC the Availability of Podiatry Services under the Medicaid Program. This bill requires that the Commissioner of Social Services to amend the Medicaid State plan to include podiatry services as covered service under the Medicaid program.

This bill will allow access of people with Medicaid coverage to podiatric services.

- Podiatrists are expert in foot and ankle care and patients covered by Medicaid cannot access their services. Similar care for foot and ankle pathologies is not provided for by other providers.
- It is often true that patients with Medicaid coverage have multiple co-morbidities such diabetes and arthritis. Both of these diseases can have dramatic effects on the foot and need ongoing medical care to care for potentially serious issues and prevent future problems.
- These patients should have access to the experts in this area of care so that they benefit from the care that Podiatrists can provide.

The Connecticut Physical Therapy Association respectfully requests that this legislation be amended to include access to physical therapy services for people on Medicaid. Under current law, people on Medicaid seeking physical therapy services must go to a hospital based clinic to receive physical therapy. By including Medicaid physical therapy services in office based settings it will create better access and convenience for the patient.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me or CPTA lobbyist Michael Dugan. As always, I look forward to working with you throughout this session of the General Assembly.