

TESTIMONY

Judiciary Committee Public Hearing

March 19, 2009

Co-Chairs, Ranking Members and Members of the Committee, my name is Dr. Bruce Liang. I am the chief of cardiology at the University of Connecticut Health Center. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide written testimony in favor of *Senate Bill 1127, An Act Concerning the Applicability of Certain State Contracting Non-Discrimination Requirements*.

As a physician my number one concern is providing quality patient care. This means I must be ready to provide urgent cardiovascular care without delay and our organization must be ready to make the necessary purchases in order to provide the physicians with tools, equipments, and medications to care for citizens of Connecticut. Our patients and residents of the State of Connecticut deserve no less from its public academic medical center.

Because of the requirements in PA 07-142, we have been faced with situations between delaying a certain procedure or using supplies or devices that may be less than ideal or optimal. We have delayed some of the procedures because of lack of needed supply items, equipment, or software. These are some examples where the law, as currently drafted, has created some unintended consequences. We are concerned these delays could at some point be catastrophic- we can't let that happen.

I join with my colleagues from Storrs and thank the Committee for raising Senate Bill 1127 as it will address some of the concerns we have identified in PA 07-142. I am pleased that prior board resolutions will be acceptable and that contracts with the federal government, municipalities, other states and foreign countries are exempted. Also, the bill makes it easier for contracts under \$50,000 to meet Connecticut's non-discrimination statutes. I understand that the University is respectfully requesting the Committee consider a few additional changes to the bill before you that will help us meet the laws' requirements but ease the time and expense involved.

Anything you can do to assist us in meeting our obligations to our patients is greatly appreciated.

I urge passage of SB 1127. Thank you for your consideration.

Bruce Liang, MD

Chief of Cardiology, University of Connecticut School of Medicine