

**Testimony of
Thomas M. Halaszynski, M.D., D.M.D.
on
HB 6678
“An Act Concerning Revisions To Department Of Public Health
Licensing Statutes”
before the
Public Health Committee
March 16, 2009**

Senator Harris, Representative Ritter, members of the committee, my name is Thomas Halaszynski. I am a Board Certified Anesthesiologist, President of the Connecticut State Society of Anesthesiologists and a practicing physician at Yale-New Haven Hospital. I come before you today in support of **HB 6678, “An Act Concerning Revisions To Department Of Public Health Licensing Statutes”**.

The American Medical Association and many medical specialties, including the American Society of Anesthesiologists, are pushing for state and federal legislation to address physician misrepresentation. The CT State Society of Anesthesiologists supports these efforts. It is a concern that The American Association of Colleges of Nursing recently announced that advanced practice nurse degrees may be converted from a master’s degree level to a doctorate degree level by 2015. Unfortunately, there can be confusion over who the actual licensed health care provider is, leading to misunderstanding and safety concerns for the patient.

The language in HB 6678 in section 8(b) requires a health care provider who works at a health care facility and provides direct patient care to wear an identification badge that indicates the provider’s name and type of license or certificate that the provider holds. This bill would also allow the health care facility to develop the policies concerning the size and content of the identification badge.

Truth and transparency are vital to the health care system. **I urge the committee to support HB 6678.**