

Testimony of
The CT Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery Society
The Connecticut ENT Society &
The Connecticut Society of Eye Physicians

on

***SB 228 AN ACT CONCERNING A PERSONAL INCOME TAX DEDUCTION FOR
INDIVIDUALS WHO RECEIVE ALL HEALTH SCREENINGS AS RECOMMENDED BY
THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.***

Presented to the Public Health Committee

By

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February 27, 2009

Good morning Senator Harris, Representative Ritter, and distinguished members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Dr. Sumaira Aasi, I am a board certified dermatologist practicing in New Haven and I am here to represent over 700 physicians in the fields of Dermatology, ENT and Eye medicine in support of SB 228 An Act Concerning a Personal Income Tax Deduction for Individuals Who Receive All Health Screenings as Recommended by the American Medical Association. I applaud the efforts of this committee for bringing this issue to public hearing and thank Senator DeBicella for proposing legislation that rewards those who take part in action plans to improve their individual health and contribute to the reduction of health care costs for the nation.

By creating a tax deduction for healthier living, Connecticut takes a bold step in promoting proper preventative health care as defined by the American Medical Association. In conjunction with the AMA's recommendations for health screenings, the AMA promotes "Living a healthy lifestyle" -a campaign geared to reducing the risk of chronic diseases- which ultimately leads to the reduction of health care costs, by incorporating small changes into everyday life, like cutting 100 calories per day or using a parking lot farther from the work place to encourage 30 minutes of moderate exercise. These small steps-like the tax deduction proposed -can make the process of getting healthier more attractive and manageable.

In closing, I would like to thank this committee for their work in promoting preventative healthcare and as the weeks and months progress we look forward to working with you on some of the "Big Picture" issues affecting the health care delivery system in Connecticut.