

# **MIDDLESEX COUNTY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**

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## **Statement in support of Raised Bill 480 – An Act Cooperative Health Care Arrangements**

### **Judiciary Committee**

**March 24, 2010**

The members of the Middlesex County Medical Association submit this statement in support of Raised Bill 480. As this Committee is well aware, over the past few years the health care field has dramatically changed. With more and more of Connecticut's citizens being covered by a managed care plan, physicians must sign contracts in order to treat patients. However, these contracts often contain provisions that are incredibly unfair to patients and physicians. The risk sharing agreements that we are required to sign do not give us the financial information necessary to make educated decisions about how much risk we are assuming. Once we have blindly assumed the risk, it is common practice for our claims to be downcoded and for authorizations for treatment to be repealed or rescinded.

MCOs say that physicians have a choice whether to sign such contracts or not, but we really have no choice. Because of the MCOs' strong market power, they are able to virtually dictate the terms and conditions they offer physicians. However, because of federal anti-trust laws, physicians are unable to collectively negotiate such terms and conditions.

We hope that this committee will recognize the unfairness that currently exists in managed care contracting and support this bill.

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