

Written Testimony of the

Connecticut ENT Society

Connecticut Urology Society

Connecticut Society of Eye Physicians

Connecticut Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery Society

in opposition to:

**R. B 5290, AN ACT CONCERNING THE ADMINISTRATION OF VACCINES
BY LICENSED PHARMACISTS**

We join the Connecticut State Medical Society in opposition to SB 5290 as written. Vaccines, while generally safe and recommended for disease prevention, do carry risks. The location and timing of vaccinations, particularly those requiring multiple doses, can be critical to the safety and effectiveness of the vaccine. Records must be kept, not only for the purposes of verification that a vaccine was received by a patient, but also to determine appropriate timing of boosters and multiple dose vaccines, and ensure they are received. Some vaccines cannot be given together, or must be given in specific locations or specific ways. Not all vaccines are appropriate for all patients due to risk factors or medications they are on. Safe administration of vaccines goes well beyond simply giving a shot, and should be ordered and controlled by the patient's primary care provider. This is mitigated, to some extent, with a flu vaccine, since the patient groups who should receive it are well-defined, and the vaccine is a one-time dose, usually well-tolerated by a variety of patients. Further, current law places a number of controls on the process, specific to the influenza vaccine. Expanding the scope of current law would require a much broader and more complete set of oversight regulations and procedures.

In concert with the CSMS, we would ask you to consider allowing medical assistants, with proper training and supervision, to administer vaccines, as a way of increasing the pool of practitioners able to provide this service to the public.