

**Legislative Testimony  
Public Health Committee  
HB 5447 AAC The Certificate Of Need Process  
March 12, 2010**

**American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS)**

Senator Harris, Representative Ritter and members of the Public Health Committee, on behalf of the nearly 160 members of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS) practicing in Connecticut, we thank you for the opportunity to present this written testimony to you.

We support HB 5447, which would exempt the acquisition of cone-beam dental imaging equipment by a dentist.

Oral and maxillofacial surgeons (OMSs) are surgically and medically trained dental specialists who treat conditions, defects, injuries, and esthetic aspects of the mouth, teeth, jaws, neck, and face. Cone-beam imaging is of value in the diagnosis of a variety of dento-maxillofacial disease and conditions. These include, but are not limited to, planning and evaluation for dental implants, craniofacial asymmetry, orthodontic treatment, impacted teeth, intraosseous cysts or tumors, dental and skeletal trauma, and the temporomandibular joint.

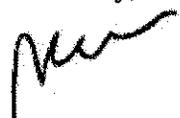
There are at least twelve states, including Connecticut, that currently require certificates of need for cone-beam dental imaging equipment, mainly because the technology is not distinguished from larger computed tomography (CT) machines. Cone-beam dental imaging equipment produces only ten percent of the radiation of a full CT machine and at nearly one-fifth of the cost. This makes cone-beam dental imaging machines more akin to dental x-ray systems than CT machines and should be subjected to similar equipment acquisition requirements.

Even though cone-beam dental imaging equipment produces a much lower dosage of radiation, it constructs a clearer three-dimensional image that allows our doctors to better plan a patient's course of treatment. We believe this ultimately leads to more favorable treatment outcomes and higher standards of care while reducing radiation exposure to the patient.

We also believe that by removing the requirement that a dentist complete a certificate of need prior to acquiring a cone-beam dental imaging device, as provided through HB 5447, you are not only removing barriers to the implementation of this technology in the dental office but also lowering the patient's cost and providing increased access to a larger dental population. No longer will a patient be required to make a potentially less accessible trip to obtain a more costly medical CT scan at another facility.

In closing, we would like to again thank the Committee for allowing the submission of this written testimony and we would be happy to make ourselves available at any time, should you have questions.

Sincerely,



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