



160 St. Ronan Street, New Haven, CT 06511-2390 (203) 865-0587 FAX (203) 865-4997

Connecticut State Medical Society Testimony
Senate Bill 404 An Act Concerning The Establishment of a Task Force to Review the
Oversight Role of Professional Examining Boards Regulating Health Care Professions
Public Health Committee
March 12, 2010

Senator Harris, Representative Ritter and members of the Public Health Committee Health Committee on behalf of the more than 7,000 members of the Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS) thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony to you today on Senate Bill 404 An Act Concerning the Establishment of a Task Force to Review the Oversight Role of Professional Examining Boards Regulating Health Care Professions.

CSMS has worked over the past years with members of this Committee, the Department of Public Health (DPH) and other stakeholders and policy makers to strengthen the Medical Examining Board (MEB), increase its powers and to ensure that physician who come before the MEB are efficiently, effectively and properly adjudicated. We welcome the opportunity to continue working with members of this committee to ensure that physicians in Connecticut are delivering the highest level quality of care.

In light of the opportunity presented before you today, we respectfully suggest that the purview of the Committee extend beyond the four sections currently listed. While we understand that language is included not to limit examined issues, our suggestions and recommendations may warrant a discussion regarding the appropriate composition and participation on the task force.

CSMS continues to assert that Connecticut should follow the lead of several other states as well as the Federation of State Medical Boards and establish an independent and autonomous MEB. The creation of a self sustainable, diverse, transparent and effective independent Board would serve the best interest of Connecticut residents and physicians. We ask for the opportunity to include this as part of the Task Force discussion and that appropriate individuals are appointed.

Furthermore, review should include information and materials available to boards when adjudicating license applicants to ensure suitability for a license. Such review and recommendations should include materials directly and possibly indirectly related to the application such as criminal background checks and the discretion of boards to use such information in approving or denying applications for licensure.

At a minimum, we believe language should be amended to ensure participation on the task force specifically by members of profession for which a board currently exist. We respectfully ask that you consider these suggestions and include our recommendations for amendment to the language before you today.

