

Testimony of the

Connecticut ENT Society

Connecticut Urology Society

Connecticut Society of Eye Physicians

Connecticut Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery Society

Connecticut Chapter of the American College of Surgeons

On S. B. No. 192 AN ACT CONCERNING ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED
NURSES AND PRIMARY CARE PROVIDERS FOR INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP HEALTH
INSURANCE POLICIES.

Before the Insurance and Real Estate Committee

On

February 25, 2010

Good afternoon Senator Crisco, Representative Fontana and other distinguished members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee, my name is Dr. Mahesh Bhaya, and I am a board certified otolaryngologist practicing in Waterbury, CT. I am here as a representative to over 1400 physicians in the medical fields of Otolaryngology, Ophthalmology, Dermatology, General Surgery and Urology to oppose SB 192 An Act Concerning Advanced Registered Nurses and Primary Care Providers of Individual or Group Health Insurance Policies.

First, as a physician who is on the front line of healthcare delivery, I would like to thank this committee for their long history of raising and supporting legislation to help improve healthcare for Connecticut citizens. Without question, this year has been a tremendous challenge for our state and our nation with regard to legislating healthcare reform. Clearly, we all want to do what is best for our citizens, but we also have to be mindful to preserve quality and the unique relationship and trust that patients have with their physicians while considering access and cost.

We are concerned that the managed care industry is not placing enough emphasis on achieving the highest level of medical training for individuals who care for our citizens. One need only look at recent headlines regarding the managed care industry's plans for record increases in premiums despite strong profits to realize that this industry often seems more concerned with profitability than with patient care. Of course physicians and advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs), who up until just a few years ago had to have direct supervision by a medical doctor, have very different levels of training and we should not blur this distinction to the public or diminish each profession's special role. APRNs do not have admitting privileges in hospitals and do not take emergency call. This leaves a serious gap in the delivery of care for Connecticut citizens. The healthcare system functions best when these multiple roles are integrated and accessible, with patients free to select the provider that best matches their needs, and physicians able to coordinate care appropriately.

In closing, physicians would like to work with this committee in improving the healthcare delivery system by strengthening the already existing model of delivery of care in Connecticut, which supports and endorses quality and consumer choice. Thank you