



160 St. Roman Street, New Haven, CT 06511-2300 (203) 865-0587 FAX (203) 865-4997

**Connecticut State Medical Society Testimony in Support of**  
**Senate Bill 265 An Act Requiring Health Care Providers to Display Photographic**  
**Identification Badges**  
**Public Health Committee**  
**March 1, 2010**

Senator Harris, Representative Ritter and Members of the Public Health Committee, my name is Ken Ferrucci, Vice President of Public Policy and Government Affairs for the Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS). On behalf of our more than 7,000 members, thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony to you today in support of Senate Bill 265 An Act Requiring Health Care Providers to Display Photographic Identification Badges. At a time when healthcare services are becoming more integrated and an increasing number of healthcare providers are interacting independently with patients, clearly identifying the type of healthcare provider at point of contact is critical.

As the healthcare delivery system evolves more disciplines of healthcare provider are having direct contact with patients. These changes increase the need for providers to be clearly identified when interacting with patients. Often patients are overwhelmed and intimidated in healthcare settings. During this sensitive time there is no room for confusion or misunderstanding. Furthermore, it is important to increase patient understanding of whom is providing medical care and their educational training and background. This can only be done through increased transparency and clarity in badge identification.

Most facilities and institutions in which multiple disciplines practice receive accreditation from a national accrediting entity such as the Joint Commission on Hospital Accreditation. Typically there is a requirement for identification procedures. It is imperative that ALL such facilities adopt and implement such procedures to clearly identify the license type of the professional providing services.

While CSMS strongly supports the intent of this legislation, we do ask for some clarification of the language. The definition of "Health care facility or institution" in Section 1 (2) includes a facility engaged in the providing services for the prevention, diagnosis, treatment or care of human health conditions." As drafted we believe this would extend beyond the intended institutions and facilities in which multiple disciplines practice and into private offices such as those of physicians, dentists, podiatrists, etc. As these settings typically utilize a very limited number of disciplines the confusion experienced at larger institutions does not exist. Therefore we do not believe it is the intent of proponents to capture these setting. We respectfully request clarification of this language.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on SB 265.