

**Testimony of
John Satterfield, M.D
before the
Program Review & Investigations Committee
and the
Public Health Committee
on
House Bill 5258
"An Act Implementing The Recommendations Of The Program Review
And Investigations Committee Concerning Scope Of Practice
Determinations For Health Care Professions"**

February 25, 2010

Senator Kissel, Representative Mushinsky, Senator Harris, Representative Ritter, members of the Program Review & Investigations Committee, and members of the Public Health Committee, my name is John Satterfield. I am a Board Certified Anesthesiologist, a practicing physician at The Hospital of Central Connecticut and Vice President of the Connecticut State Society of Anesthesiologists (CSSA). I come before you today In support of House Bill 5258, "An Act Implementing The Recommendations Of The Program Review And Investigations Committee Concerning Scope Of Practice Determination For Health Care Professions". CSSA welcomes the opportunity to comment to you today.

Anesthesiologists understand the dilemma facing legislators with regard to scope of practice issues. Legislators do not have the resources or the time available to gather a thorough understanding of the implications of scope of practice proposals. Over the last several years, efforts have been made to change the scope of practice relationship between APRN's and physicians particularly with regard to the formality of the relationship, the actual definition of collaborative agreement and the responsibilities prescribed to both parties in such agreements. Anesthesiologists have major concerns about the details of proposed changes because this could potentially affect the relationships we have with Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs).

Establishing a review committee would provide a forum for objective review of proposed changes in the scope of practice. Legislation to create a review committee should cover any health professional group that could potentially

seek to alter their scope of practice. We agree with the scope of practice review committee being housed under the Department of Public Health to perform a professional review and make recommendations for change. When establishing parameters for scope of practice for health care professionals, we also support this process being administratively overseen by the Department of Public Health, as suggested in the language in HB 5258.

The creation of a state level scope of practice review committee that assesses scope of practice initiatives *prior to* submission of legislation, would serve to create a level playing field for discussion. It will also be helpful to have the Department of Public Health provide written notification that an initiative has been submitted to the committee having cognizance over this issue. This will assist in keeping legislators informed on upcoming scope of practice issues that will be discussed following the review committee's efforts. Hopefully having this process in order will allow for ample time for the Department's review committee to make assessments before the legislative session begins.

CSSA supports the open, professional unbiased and fair process that would be established under this bill. We appreciate that the process will be assessed on or before September 1, 2013 by the Commissioner of Public Health to determine its success. We are optimistic that it will indeed be successful but we would hope that any necessary changes to the process would be approved as soon as possible. Thank you again for the opportunity to speak today.