

Testimony of the
Connecticut ENT Society
Connecticut Urology Society
Connecticut Society of Eye Physicians
Connecticut Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery Society
To the Insurance and Real Estate Committee
In **Opposition** of H.B. No. 6306 AAC the Listing of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses in
Managed Care Organization Provider Listings and Primary Care Provider Designations
On
February 22, 2011

Good Afternoon, Senator Crisco, Representative Megna and other distinguished members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee, my name is Dr. Todd Zachs, and I am a board certified otolaryngologist practicing in West Hartford, CT. I am here as a representative to over 1200 physicians in the medical fields of Otolaryngology, Ophthalmology, Dermatology and Urology to **oppose** H.B. No. 6306 AAC the Listing of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses in Managed Care Organization Provider Listings and Primary Care Provider Designations.

First, as a physician who is on the front line of the healthcare battlefield, I would like to thank this committee for their long history of raising and supporting legislation to help improve the delivery of the healthcare to 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, transparency and the unique relationship and trust that patients have with their physicians while considering access and cost.

The physicians of Connecticut also support informed patient decision-making and transparency in health care administration. It is confusing enough, already, for patients to sort out who is who in the mix of providers and ancillary personnel that make up modern medical care. Listing APRNs with MDs and DOs as primary care providers, without specifically identifying their training and degrees obtained will simply add to that confusion. Furthermore, we are concerned that not enough emphasis is being placed on achieving the highest level of medical training to care for our citizens by the managed care industry, who seems more concerned with profitability than with patient care. In general, physicians and Advanced Practice Nurse practitioners have very different levels of training and we should not blur these lines to the public or diminish each professions distinct role. Nurse Practitioners also must maintain a collaborative relationship with a licensed physician. That relationship should be disclosed in any listing, and the physician identified in the listing, so that patients may make truly informed decisions about their care.

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, excellence and consumer choice and transparency. Thank you