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Testimony of the
Connecticut State Society of Anesthesiologists
before the
Insurance and Real Estate Committee
on
Proposed Senate Bill 316
"An Act Prohibiting Differential Payment Rates To Health Care Providers For Colonoscopy Or Endoscopic Services Based On Site Of Service "

February 10, 2011

Senator Crisco, Representative Megna, and members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee, my name is John Satterfield. I am a Board Certified Anesthesiologist, a practicing physician at The Hospital of Central Connecticut and President of the Connecticut State Society of Anesthesiologists (CSSA). I am submitting testimony today in support of **Senate Bill 316, "An Act Prohibiting Differential Payment Rates To Health Care Providers For Colonoscopy Or Endoscopic Services Based On Site Of Service."**

Private insurers currently are encouraging outpatient surgery through higher reimbursement rates to physicians that perform procedures in these settings. While the convenience of outpatient surgical centers is well recognized, the economic channeling of patients to such health care facilities by insurers is not without risk. Patients with multiple medical problems are more likely to require intensive intraoperative and/or postoperative care and most free-standing outpatient centers are not equipped to provide that level of service.

As trained anesthesiologists, we are concerned the provision of deep sedation in some medical procedures, outside a hospital setting, potentially compromises the health of patients if complications occur. We need to rethink the consequences of site of service reimbursement rates as they impact the safe delivery of medical services. Differentials established by health insurers are not consistent with the best interests of patient safety. **I urge you to support Senate Bill 316.**