TOLLAND COUNTY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Executive Office: One Regency Drive • P.O. Box 30
Bloomfield, CT 06002-0030 • (860) 243-3977

Statement in Support of

House Bill 6343 – An Act Concerning Cooperative Health Care Arrangements

Judiciary Committee

March 4, 2011

The members of the Tolland County Medical Association submit this statement in strong support of House Bill 6343 – An Act Concerning Cooperative Health Care Arrangements. This legislative session, as you consider what bills to act on we respectfully request that you support House Bill 6343 as it will help to level the playing field in contracts between Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) and physicians.

Currently, physicians have no ability to effectively negotiate with MCOs. Federal antitrust laws prohibit it. This bill would change that by allowing physicians to join together to receive a certificate of public advantage from the Attorney General and would then require MCOs to negotiate in good faith. Because so many Connecticut citizens are covered under managed care plans, MCOs have all of the market power. It is this market power that enables them to dictate the terms and conditions of physician contracts. It also enables them to make unilateral changes in the middle of a contract period without the physician's consent or knowledge. Further, MCOs have the ability to

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make physicians sign all products clauses that provide that if a physician wishes to participate in one of the MCO's plans they must participate

You may ask why physicians sign contracts without all the information they need to make an educated decision. The answer is that they have no real choice. The MCOs have the patients. We encourage you to level the playing field between physicians and MCOs by supporting House Bill 6343.

For more information, please call:
Mark Schuman, Executive Director
Melissa Dempsey, Director of Government Relations

(860) 243-3977