

Judiciary Committee
Public Hearing Testimony
By
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March 25, 2011

HB 6614 AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAL FOUNDATIONS

Thank you for affording me the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of **HB 6614 AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAL FOUNDATIONS**. I am pleased to join my colleagues from Yale Medical School in supporting this bill. I am the Interim Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs and Medical Director for the UConn Medical Group at the University of Connecticut Health Center. The UConn Medical Group is the state's only public multi-specialty practice group that provides primary and specialty care to the citizens of Connecticut. Our clinics serve as a key training site for the students and residents of the UConn Medical School.

Public Act 09-212 authorized hospitals, health care systems, and certain physician practices to form medical foundations. Medical foundations are a preferred model for creating "accountable care organizations" that will help to improve the quality and cost-efficiency of medical care. In reviewing the Act, we found that it did not include physician practices that are part of accredited medical schools.

It is widely recognized that a fragmented system of delivering and financing health care contributes to the rapid increases in health care spending. Many observers believe that the quality of care can be improved, and the cost of care brought under better control, if physicians and hospitals integrate care and are held jointly responsible for the quality and cost of caring for patients. Indeed, the federal health care reform law, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, instructs Medicare to promote the development of accountable care organizations serving Medicare enrollees.

We applaud the General Assembly for its foresight in enacting Public Act 09-212 as it represents a major advance in improving the quality of healthcare and health delivery in the state. This bill would simply add, what we believe, is a technical amendment to include – the clinical faculty physicians at accredited schools of medicine (in Connecticut that would include the Yale School of Medicine and the UConn School of Medicine). While we are currently not pursuing the establishment of a medical foundation, the opportunity to consider doing so, at some point in the future, would be tremendously beneficial and passage of this bill would allow us to do just that.

Thank you in advance for your attention and I urge your adoption of HB 6614.