The Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants (ConnAPA) is the professional society representing all Physician Assistants in Connecticut. Physician Assistants (PAs) are licensed healthcare professionals who practice medicine with physician supervision in all medical and surgical specialties in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, the armed forces, and the federal services. The Connecticut Academy serves as the collective voice for over 1600 PAs practicing in Connecticut. A major component of our mission is to provide accessible, high quality, cost-effective healthcare to the Connecticut residents we serve. We care for patients across the age continuum from pediatric to geriatric populations in all care settings including primary care, internal medicine, and surgery. We accomplish this by working in partnership with our supervising physician colleagues.

ConnAPA is committed to working with the Connecticut state legislature and all involved parties to plan and implement a fair and comprehensive reform effort of the Connecticut health care system. In this commitment, ConnAPA supports:

- Health care that is delivered by qualified providers in physician-directed teams
- Optimal utilization of primary care in a reformed health system
- An emphasis on health promotion and disease prevention in health care reform
- Reform that enhances the relationship between the patient and the clinician
ConnAPA is encouraged that the Connecticut legislature is proceeding with its own plan to provide coverage for thousands of uninsured state residents through the Sustinet Plan. As Physician Assistants, we care for patients in primary care clinics, family medicine clinics, pediatric clinics, women’s clinics, emergency rooms, and hospitals – virtually every setting and within every age-group along the health care continuum. We see thousands of Connecticut residents daily as they seek health care services. Without the reform efforts of the Sustinet Plan, we believe many of these residents might simply go without needed health care and subsequently be harmed in the process.

The Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants salutes the Insurance and Real Estate Committee, the Human Services Committee, and the Public Health Committee for their continued efforts to develop the Sustinet Plan and toward making comprehensive health care reform a reality in Connecticut. We pledge to work with you and other stakeholders in this endeavor. And finally, we thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony on behalf of the Connecticut residents we serve and for the 1600 plus Physician Assistant care providers serving them.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan M. Weber, MA, PA-C
Government Affairs Chair
Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants