



Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants

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TESTIMONY by the
Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants (ConnAPA)
For the
Insurance and Real Estate Committee, Human Services Committee & Public Health Committee
Joint Public Hearing
On
Raised *H.B. No. 6305 AN ACT CONCERNING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTINET PLAN.

Monday, February 14, 2011

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.

The Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants submits this written testimony in favor of raised *H.B. No. 6305 AN ACT CONCERNING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTINET PLAN. We believe the Connecticut health care system requires coordinated and systematic reform in order to meet the needs of the population, to ensure quality, and to control costs. Toward this goal, we applaud the efforts of the Connecticut legislature toward this important goal of comprehensive health care reform in the form of the Sustinet Plan.

ConnAPA is not an advocate for any specific structure of health care reform and financing. However, ConnAPA does advocate setting forth the following principles to direct efforts on comprehensive health care reform:

- Access to quality, affordable, cost efficient health care for all patients
- Use of evidence based medical care
- Equitable distribution of care and resources
- Portable and sustainable payment mechanisms for individuals & families

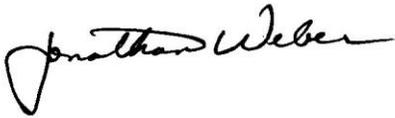
ConnAPA is committed to working with the Connecticut state legislature and all involved parties to plan and implement a fair and comprehensive reform effort of the Connecticut health care system. In this commitment, ConnAPA supports:

- 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan Weber". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "W".

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