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Connecticut State Medical Society Testimony
Senate Bill 1052 An Act Concerning the Practice of Acupuncture
Presented to the Public Health Committee
March 2, 2011

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and members of the Public Health Committee, on behalf of the physicians and physician-in-training members of the Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS), thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony to you today in opposition to **Senate Bill 1052 An Act Concerning the Practice of Acupuncture**. We have carefully reviewed the proposed legislation and we have expressed our concerns to the Connecticut Society of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine. We have offered our colleagues suggested language and our willingness to continue to work to ensure that the definition of acupuncture accurately reflects practitioners' education and training.

The use of the word "diagnosis" alone has many implications which start to cross over into the practice of medicine. Use of that term is a significant deviation from current scope of practice, thereby changing acupuncturists from therapeutic providers to diagnosticians. Since CSMS was only made aware of this proposal recently, we have not had the opportunity to fully review and discuss these changes in the proper venue.

While we continue to offer the opportunity to our acupuncture colleagues to meet and discuss this proposed legislation, we also believe that this is another example of why legislation such as **House Bill 5626 An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee Concerning Scope of Practice Review For Health Care Practitioners** should be heard and supported by this committee. HB 5626 addresses scope of practice issues efficiently and uniformly. This important legislation would put in place a process for prior review of such proposals by a professional panel of health care providers and the Department of Public Health that scrutinizes education, training and credentials and recommends appropriate changes to the General Assembly.

Without a comprehensive process in place for the review of such scope of practice issues and with the legislation in front of you today that we believe significantly expands the scope of practice of acupuncturists to include diagnosis in the statutes governing acupuncturists, CSMS must oppose this legislation. We do however; welcome the opportunity to work with our colleagues to more effectively address concerns while maintaining the integrity of scope of practice laws and processes in place in Connecticut.