

**Testimony of
John Satterfield, M.D
before the
Public Health Committee
on
House Bill 6549
"An Act Concerning The Department of Public Health's Oversight
Responsibilities Relating To Scope Of Practice Determinations For
Health Care Professions"**

March 11, 2011

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter, and members of the Public Health Committee, my name is John Satterfield. I am a Board Certified Anesthesiologist, a practicing physician at The Hospital of Central Connecticut and President of the Connecticut State Society of Anesthesiologists (CSSA). I come before you today in support of House Bill 6549, "An Act Concerning The Department of Public Health's Oversight Responsibilities Relating To Scope Of Practice Determinations For Health Care Professions". CSSA welcomes the opportunity to comment to you today.

Anesthesiologists understand the dilemma facing legislators with regard to scope of practice issues. Busy legislators do not have the time or resources to completely understand the implications of each scope of practice proposal. Additionally, any requested change in practice needs to be thoroughly evaluated, in an unbiased fashion, to ensure ongoing patient safety. Over the last several years, efforts have been made to change the scope of practice relationship between APRN's and physicians particularly with regard to the formality of the relationship, the actual definition of collaborative agreement and the responsibilities prescribed to both parties in such agreements.

Establishing a review committee would provide a forum for objective review of proposed changes in the scope of practice. We agree with the scope of practice review committee being housed under the Department of Public Health to perform a professional review and make recommendations for change. When establishing parameters for scope of practice for health care professionals, we support this process being administratively overseen by the Department of Public Health, as suggested in the language in HB 6549.

The creation of a state level scope of practice review committee that assesses scope of practice initiatives *prior to* submission of legislation, would serve to create a level playing field for discussion. Hopefully having this process in order will allow for ample time for the Department's review committee to make assessments before the legislative session begins.

CSSA supports the open, professional unbiased and fair process that would be established under this bill. We are optimistic that it will indeed be successful. Thank you again for the opportunity to speak today.