Special Liability Reform
Protecting Access to Emergency Care
Testimony of Emergency Physicians from Hartford Hospital
Raised Bill No. 6622

Lack of available specialist care seriously affects patient care in Connecticut, particularly in referral centers. Increasing numbers of patients are being transferred to Hartford Hospital due to lack of specialty coverage at outlying institutions in specialties including Cardiovascular Surgery, Gastroenterology, General Surgery, Hand Surgery, Neurology, Neurosurgery, Ophthalmology, Oralmaxillofacial Surgery, Orthopedic Surgery, Urology, and Vascular Surgery. At times patients are kept in hospitals when a suitable specialist cannot be found at a referral center and treated as best can be done by Emergency Physicians.

In some cases even tertiary centers such as ours have difficulty meeting this demand and providing specialty coverage. Patients deserve access to emergency care which requires the availability of specialty coverage of Emergency Departments. Emergency Departments (EDs) are the safety net for Connecticut and the tertiary care center ED is the safety net for smaller EDs. The safety net is severely threatened and at risk of collapse. In order to protect and save lives, access to specialty emergency care needs to be protected to prevent unnecessary death and disability. A key aspect in maintaining coverage is the adoption of special liability legislation for those providing emergency services.

Kelley Johnson-Arbor MD
Robinson, MD
J. Delgado, MD
MA
(Abbott)
MD
Scott Brown, MD
Susan Ambrose MD

203 234 2852

Special Liability Reform
Protecting Access to Emergency Care
Testimony of Emergency Physicians from Hartford Hospital
Raised Bill No. 6622

Lack of available specialist care seriously affects patient care in Connecticut, particularly in referral centers. Increasing numbers of patients are being transferred to Hartford Hospital due to lack of specialty coverage at outlying institutions in specialties including Cardiovascular Surgery, Gastroenterology, General Surgery, Hand Surgery, Neurology, Neurosurgery, Ophthalmology, Oralmaxillofacial Surgery, Orthopedic Surgery, Urology, and Vascular Surgery. At times patients are kept in hospitals when a suitable specialist cannot be found at a referral center and treated as best can be done by Emergency Physicians.

In some cases even tertiary centers such as ours have difficulty meeting this demand and providing specialty coverage. Patients deserve access to emergency care which requires the availability of specialty coverage of Emergency Departments. Emergency Departments (EDs) are the safety net for Connecticut and the tertiary care center ED is the safety net for smaller EDs. The safety net is severely threatened and at risk of collapse. In order to protect and save lives, access to specialty emergency care needs to be protected to prevent unnecessary death and disability. A key aspect in maintaining coverage is the adoption of special liability legislation for those providing emergency services.

A. CORDIANO MD

S. Lotterman, MD

Michele Petrucelli, MD

MD

KAOTOOL MD

JOHAR, DO

A J SMALLY MD

Debra A Pachucki MD

Debra A Pachucki

(Julia D'Alo)

MD

STANLEY E. CHARTOFF, MD

(PRICE) MD.

(Dufel)