

Written Testimony of the
Connecticut ENT Society
Connecticut Urology Society
Connecticut Society of Eye Physicians
Connecticut Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery Society
To the Public Health Committee

In Opposition of H.B. No. H.B. No. 5289 AN ACT PROHIBITING MEDICAL PROCEDURES THAT MAY
POTENTIALLY BLOCK A PERSON'S AIR PASSAGES.

On

February 23, 2011

The 1200 members of the societies of Otolaryngology, Ophthalmology, Dermatology and Urology strongly **oppose** HB 5289 AN ACT PROHIBITING MEDICAL PROCEDURES THAT MAY POTENTIALLY BLOCK A PERSON'S AIR PASSAGES, which would prohibit a health care provider from administering a medical procedure that could potentially result in a person's air passages being blocked. First, and foremost, it is always a tragic event when an airway gets blocked during a medical procedure and death occurs, especially if that life lost is a child's. Although we support every reasonable way to reduce the chances that such an event may occur, it is an inescapable fact that every invasive procedure, especially those involving air passages (tip of the nose to the lungs) carries risk. Otolaryngologists routinely and safely perform surgery on airway structures such as the nose, adenoids, tonsils, larynx (voicebox), trachea and neck. HB 5289 if passed would prevent surgeons and physicians from helping thousands of Connecticut residents from receiving help with airway issues and would without doubt set the world of Otolaryngology back decades in the delivery of care.

We urge this committee to oppose H.B. 5289 and allow Connecticut surgeons and physicians to continue to help those patients in need of airway medical treatments and support the medical community in their attempts to always deliver safe, high quality health care.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions you can contact the president of the Connecticut ENT Society; Steven Levine, M.D. at slevine@entallergymd.com