

# Greater New Haven

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Testimony of the  
Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce  
to the  
Judiciary Committee

March 7 2012

**RE: SB 243: AAC Certificates of Merit**

Senator Coleman, Representative Fox, members of the Judiciary Committee, the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony today in **opposition to SB 243, AAC Certificates of Merit**. My name is Louise DiCocco-Beauton and I am the Director of Governmental Affairs for the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce, a regional business organization with more than 2,000 members.

**SB 243** revises provisions concerning certificates of merit in medical malpractice actions. Certificates of Merit in medical malpractice suits ensure that the plaintiff's attorney has reviewed the facts of the case and consulted with a medical expert in a similar field of expertise as the medical practitioner being sued before concluding the plaintiff's claim has merits. Certificates of Merit serve as a screening process that reduce the number of frivolous lawsuits, and help verify a plaintiff in an action has not falsified any claims regarding the treating physician.

The Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce urges you to **oppose** SB 243. Certificates of Merit have not created any obstruction or barriers to the courts. They have led to a reduction in the number of frivolous medical malpractice lawsuits that have helped lower malpractice insurance rates. **SB 243** will simply make it much easier to file a medical malpractice claim without due diligence by a plaintiff's attorney and will increase insurance costs.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

For more information, please contact Louise DiCocco, Esq., Director of Governmental Affairs, Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce, and (203) 782-4330 or [ldicocco@gnhcc.com](mailto:ldicocco@gnhcc.com).