



**Connecticut State Medical Society  
Connecticut Chapter of the American College of Physicians  
Connecticut Chapter of the American College of Surgeons  
Testimony on House Bill 5515 An Act Concerning Physician Assistants**

**Public Health Committee  
March 21, 2012**

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and Members of the Public Health Committee, on behalf of the more than 8,500 members of the Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS) and the Connecticut Chapters of the American College of Physicians and the American College of Surgeons, thank you for opportunity to provide this testimony in support of **House Bill 5515 An Act Concerning Physician Assistants**.

This committee successfully passed legislation last session establishing a formal process for the submission and review of requests from health professionals seeking to revise or alter existing scopes of practice. Under Public Act 11-209, committees of appropriate and impacted professionals would be established under the direction of the Department of Public Health (DPH). Public Act 11-209 delineated a comprehensive list of discussion points as well as a significant list of factors to be included such as curriculum, training, supervision, access to care, public need, etc. The legislation before you today is an example of that legislation successfully working as it was envisioned.

In response to a scope of practice request from the Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants (CAPA), CSMS filed an Impact Statement as required by Public Act 11-209 with the request to establish a Scope Review Committee. A similar request was submitted by the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA). The subsequent establishment of a Scope Review Committee by DPH provided an appropriate opportunity for the organizations to meet formally with the Department, and to circulate materials and information as appropriate.

Subsequent to the work of the Scope Review Committee, DPH submitted as required, a report to the General Assembly regarding the process and with recommended outcomes for legislation. HB 5515 An Act Concerning Physician Assistants is a direct result of, and positive example of the function of Public Act 11-209.

CSMS appreciates the hard work and professionalism of DPH staff that guided the process and developed the report. Physician assistants are a critical part of the healthcare team. We fully believe that the proposed language requiring a comprehensive and dynamic written protocol as delineated in this language will allow physician assistants to practice to the fullest extent of their capabilities. Thanks to the process implemented by Public Act 11-209, legislation has been developed in which the biggest winners are our patients.

We look forward to working with this committee and DPH to ensure the appropriate implementation of the language contained in HB 5515 and we therefore ask for your support.