



**Connecticut State Medical Society
Connecticut Chapter of the American College of Physicians
Connecticut Chapter of the American College of Surgeons
testimony on Senate Bill 278 An Act Concerning Membership of the Board of Examiners
for Physical Therapists**

**Public Health Committee
March 7, 2012**

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and members of the Public Health Committee, on behalf of the more than 8,500 physicians and physicians in training 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 the opportunity to present this testimony to you today on **Senate Bill 278 An Act Concerning Membership of the Board of Examiners for Physical Therapists**. This legislation would remove the physician member of the Board of Examiners for Physical Therapists. We respectfully ask you to oppose this legislation.

While proponents may argue that this is not a scope of practice change we believe the proposal before you is an appropriate candidate for the scope of practice review process as established in Public Act 11-209. While technically the proposal may not contain verbiage to change the physical scope of practice for physical therapists, it does provide for a change in the oversight and review of such professionals. Therefore, it should be reviewed appropriately.

Currently, boards do exist for several health care professional groups without the involvement of physicians, including chiropractors, podiatrists and naturopaths. However, these professions have been awarded that ability by the legislature to practice a specific scope of practice without the supervision, oversight or referral of a licensed physician. While a limited spectrum of services exist in which a physical therapists can provide services without a direct referral from a physician, in most situations, they are implementing the treatment plan of a licensed doctor. Therefore, the inclusion of a physician should be retained at this time pending appropriate discussion amongst professions through the review process.

Please oppose Senate Bill 278.