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**Connecticut State Medical Society Testimony on**  
**Senate Bill 812 An Act Concerning the Health Insurance Board of Directors**  
**Submitted to the Insurance and Real Estate Committee**  
**February 5, 2013**

Senator Crisco, Representatives Megna and members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee On behalf of our more than 7,000 physicians and physician in training of the Connecticut State Medical Society, thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony to you today on Senate Bill 812 An Act Concerning the Health Insurance Board of Directors. This proposed legislation would increase the size of the Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange to thirteen members by adding an active insurance producer.

In past testimony we suggested to you and other committees of the General Assembly that the involvement of physicians in the exchange is critical. Unfortunately, legislation passed into law to establish the exchange expressly excluded all health care providers or those employed by the. Therefore, while this legislation seeks to add an active insurance producer, we strongly suggest language be added to include a physician currently participating in health insurance panels within the state.

Last session the General Assembly rightfully elevated the Health Care Advocate to a full voting member of the Exchange, thereby providing a voice for consumers. However, physicians are often advocates for their patients in dealing with issues related to their health insurance coverage and accessing their benefits. In addition, to fully evaluate products offered through the exchange, as well as what materials and information need to be available to consumers through the navigator, the knowledge of a practicing physician is imperative.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony to you today.