CTChiro

Connecticut Chiropractic Association

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Statement of the Connecticut Chiropractic Association
Judiciary Committee
Raised House Bill 6687
April 1, 2013

Senator Coleman, Representative Fox and members of the committee, my name is Francis Vesci. I am the president of the Connecticut Chiropractic Association and a practicing chiropractic physician in New Britain. I am here to day to testify in opposition to H.B. 6687, An Act Concerning Certificates of Merit.

As you are aware, at the present, if a plaintiff wishes to sue a health care provider, a similar health care provider must sign the certificate of merit for the case to proceed. In other words, under the present system, if I were to be named in malpractice suit, the plaintiff must find a chiropractic physician to sign the certificate of merit. Passage of this bill would change that requirement such that a plaintiff would need a provider in a similar field to sign the certificate. Thus, a provider who might not understand the specifics of chiropractic treatment or a provider who does not know the standard of care for chiropractic physicians could allow a potentially frivolous malpractice claim to proceed. I am using my profession as an example, but of course, this could be extended to any provider or discipline.

While I understand that the proposed requirement is to create balance and avoid setting a standard in which serious claims might not being heard, it is important to not ease the requirements such that potentially frivolous are allowed to proceed further burdening the courts. As such, I am asking that the committee not pass H.B. 6687.