



Statement of Joseph Treadwell, D.P.M.  
In opposition to  
Senate Bill 1038: An Act Concerning the Definition of Surgery  
Public Health Committee  
March 20, 2013

On behalf of the CT Podiatric Medical Association I am speaking in opposition of Bill 1038 “An act concerning the definition of surgery”.

The addition of the definition of surgery to section 20-9 raises concern for scope of practice restriction on Doctors of Podiatric Medicine. Only those with the M.D. or D.O degree are referenced in section 20-10 for licensure which is a requirement to perform surgery in subsection (a) 20-9.

Podiatrists perform surgery as defined in this proposed definition of surgery. Podiatrists perform fracture repair of the foot and ankle, diabetic limb salvage, amputations, reconstructive surgeries on the foot and ankle all within the hospital setting, and yet would be excluded from doing surgery based off the new statute wording.

The bill would need to include Doctors of Podiatric Medicine (D.P.M.) in section 20-10 and be included in section 20-9 to be reflective of who performs surgery under this definition.

Within the proposed definition of surgery itself are two areas of concern where procedures for the treatment for punctures and the removal of dead tissue are not considered surgical procedures. Deep penetrating trauma can occur via puncture in any area of the body and should be treated by a licensed surgical practitioner (M.D., D.O or D.P.M.). The removal of dead tissue in the form of gangrenous tissue also should be restricted to those licensed appropriately by the Department of Public Health (M.D., D.O., D.P.M.). The last line as written that states “is accomplished without an incision causing localized alteration or transposition of live human tissue” is related only to the act of scraping or brushing of live tissue and none of the aforementioned procedures.

Due to the potential scope of practice impact we would request this bill proposal be denied and the sponsors be encouraged to submit it through the scope of practice pathway set up in the Department of Public Health.

Thank you,

Joseph R. Treadwell, D.P.M.