

Legislators,

My name is Gabe Gambardella, and I am currently the chief resident of Podiatric Surgery at Yale-New Haven Hospital, and I am here to attest to my training in foot and ankle surgery so that the current law can be revised to allow individuals, such as myself, to practice in what I have been trained as a board qualified surgeon.

I am originally from Hamden, CT, attended Notre Dame High School of West Haven, and subsequently went on to attend Columbia University for undergraduate studies and participated in Division I baseball. Following this, I obtained my pre-medical training at Harvard University, and ultimately received my Doctor of Podiatric Medicine degree at Temple University. Fortunately, I was accepted into residency at Yale-New Haven Hospital back in my home state which had been my goal. I have also been fortunate enough to obtain employment with Milford Podiatry Associates/New Haven Foot Surgeons which will commence on July 1st of this year, a practice that has been serving the community for over 50 years. One of the main reasons I was hired is because of my reputable educational experience and extensive training in foot and ankle surgery, which includes complex reconstructive surgery of the rearfoot and ankle, limb salvage, and trauma. However, I will not be able to perform many of the surgeries that I have been so thoroughly trained to do despite the fact that I will have met the entire skill set required by the state of Connecticut as well as the hospital criteria when I graduate in June of this year, because of one inappropriate word that had been incorporated into the law. In June, I will have completed an intensive 3-year residency program in Podiatric Medicine and Surgery and become board qualified. As of now, I will be part of a distinct group of surgeons, who unlike any other surgical specialty at Yale Hospital, and other hospitals in the state, cannot come out and practice to my full ability as a board *qualified* surgeon because the law mandates that I must be board *certified*. I respectfully request that the law be changed so that I can practice my specialty as a board qualified surgeon.

Over the past three years, not only have I been able to amass a vast number of surgical cases from my podiatric attendings, but my surgical experience has been supplemented by many orthopedic surgeons from all over the state, most of whom are fellowship trained in trauma, foot and ankle surgery, and sports medicine. They have contributed to my education through lecturing, but more importantly I perform foot and ankle surgery with them on a regular basis, many of which are those specific surgical procedures (such as ankle fractures and ankle arthroscopies) that I will be prevented from performing as a board qualified surgeon. Because of my combined tutelage from podiatric and orthopedic surgeons and the quantity and quality of surgeries that I have been performing since 2010, it is unreasonable to conclude that I will not be adequately trained to perform those same exact surgeries once I graduate and become board qualified. The current law implements a certainly unnecessary and unwarranted delay in my ability to practice and provide patient care.

Thank you for your consideration in this crucial matter,

Gabriel V. Gambardella, DPM
Chief Resident, Podiatric Medicine and Surgery
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