

The Connecticut Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery Society
Connecticut ENT Society
Connecticut Society of Eye Physicians
Connecticut Urology Society

February 27, 2013

SUPPORTING Testimony
for the Public Health Committee

Proposed H.B. No. 5445 AN ACT CONCERNING CERTIFICATES OF NEED FOR PEDCAT IMAGING EQUIPMENT.

Good Morning Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson and other distinguished members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Dr. Steven Thornquist and I am a board certified ophthalmologist practicing in Trumbull, Connecticut. I am also an officer of the Connecticut State Medical Society. I am here to support amending H.B. No. 5445 AN ACT CONCERNING CERTIFICATES OF NEED FOR PEDCAT IMAGING EQUIPMENT, on behalf of over 1000 physicians in ENT, Dermatology, Ophthalmology and Urology and our patients.

Here we are, once again, talking about whether the purchase of CT scans should require a certificate of need. Up until two years ago, the answer was yes and there were no exceptions. Two years ago, the legislature decided that dentists should not be required to go through a CON process for cone beam CTs, but Ear, Nose & Throat physicians who would use the same CT Scan as dentists should still be required to do so. This hardly seems fair to the medical community. In fact, many of our legal friends have suggested that this is even blatantly anti-competitive using difference in licensure as the reason to grant exception to one group over another.

And now, podiatrists would like the same carve out as the dentists. They have the same argument. But is this appropriate? Should Connecticut favor dentists or podiatrists over physicians? We come before this committee to ask that physicians who are heading up the healthcare delivery team and who are highly trained in their respective fields be given the same rights and ability to care for their patients. We certainly do not want to make it seem that it is a liability in this State to be a physician, nor do we want to encourage highly trained physicians to go elsewhere and not come to Connecticut to practice.

We propose that HB 5445 be amended by removing all CON requirements for CT scans based solely on the licensure of the applicant as long as the technical and professional components of the study are within the scope of practice of the applicant.

Thank you for your time and consideration and I am happy to entertain your questions.