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Testimony of State Representative Kim Fawcett, 133rd District
Public Health Committee, Public Health Hearing
February 20, 2013

Proposed S.B. No. 466 An Act Concerning Continuing Education Requirements For Medical & Sister Bill H.B. No. 6238

Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson and distinguished members of the Public Health Committee, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the SB 466, An Act Concerning Continuing Education Requirements For Medical Professionals. This bill mimics in content a similar bill I sent to this committee, HB 6238.

Doctors throughout our state are required each year to take continuing education requirement credits to maintain their professional licensing and ability to practice in our state. For many years this continuing education system has been onerous and unreasonable for our medical professionals. While no one disagrees that some form of continuing education is necessary and helpful, mandating the actual course selection has proven less beneficial, even antiquated.

Doctors are required to take the same five courses every two years, and over time are wasting time and resources repeating the courses over and over. The repeated courses include:

A) Infectious diseases, including, but not limited to, acquired immune deficiency syndrome and human immunodeficiency virus, B) risk management, C) sexual assault, D) domestic violence and e) cultural competency

Our suggestion is to allow doctors to complete continuing education requirements in areas of study that are more current and targeted to the medical fields in which they work.

I look forward to working with the members of this committee to develop a more appropriate continuing education system for our state.