



Testimony on House Bill 6644 An Act Concerning Various Revisions To The Public Health Statutes
Public Health Committee
March 20, 2013

Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson and members of the Public Health Committee, on behalf of the almost 8,500 physicians and physicians in training of the Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS), American College of Physicians Connecticut Chapter (ACP) and the American College of Surgeons Connecticut Chapter (ACS) thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony to you today on House Bill 6644 An Act Concerning Various Revisions To The Public Health Statutes. We offer two brief concerns regarding language, and offer our resources and commitment to work with the committee to clarify and address them.

CSMS has concerns with apparent extended authority granted to the medical examining board (MEB). In Section 9, language specifically states “The board is authorized to restrict, suspend or revoke the license or limit the right to practice of a physician or take any other action in accordance with section 19a-17, for failure to conform to the accepted standards of the profession that includes, but is not limited to...” The proposed language would grant the MEB the authority to suspend or review physician licensure for any and all reasons. Physicians are entitled to know the reasons and circumstances for which they may be referred to the MEB. This proposed language would open the door for physicians to be subject to MEB review without substantive reason. We understand the need and intent to allow the board to take action in unforeseen circumstances. However, as drafted, we are concerned about over-broad interpretation that could lead to licensure action on issues unrelated to standards of care.

Subsequently, Section 43 expands the reporting required under the Connecticut Tumor Registry. CSMS has supported, and had member physicians involved in, the development and reporting to the registry. We understand and support the need for appropriate documents and documentation to be submitted and coordinated. We ask for the opportunity to work with committee members to ensure that in moving toward this goal we do not create a hardship for hospitals or the physicians who will most likely be responsible. Should a formal requirement be established as indicated by this language, actively practicing physicians must be included in the development.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments today.