

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

February 20, 2013

Written Testimony

For the Public Health Committee

On

S.B. No. 60 An Act Concerning A Single-Payer Health Care System

On behalf of the 1000+ members of the Connecticut Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery Society, Connecticut ENT Society, Connecticut Society of Eye Physicians and Connecticut Urology Society we want to thank this committee for bringing this issue to a public hearing and to emphasize that physicians strongly believe that all ideas involving improvements and / or beneficial changes to the healthcare system need to be seriously considered.

Healthcare in general is complicated. For the past three years, before the Affordable Healthcare ACT passed in 2011, it consumed the nation with controversial debate and today it continues to plague our nation with uncertainty and doubt as to how our country will rise to meet the costs of this new system or for that matter how the healthcare providers will service all the new lives expected to enter into the healthcare delivery system. Any time you mix humanistic factors, including quality of life, and combine them with economics and fiscal impact you will have controversy. Some believe the healthcare crisis could be readily solved by instituting a universal healthcare system or "a single payer" system, while others believe that a "free market" approach with multiple companies offering insurance to society would more effectively control costs and maintain quality and access in the healthcare delivery system better than a system that offers no choice.

Both sides make eloquent arguments and have debated this issue long before the Affordable Healthcare Act was passed but interestingly and quite frankly very few lawmakers asked physicians to weigh in on the issue during these national debates in Washington. In general, aside from a few statesmen thrown into the spotlight, like Dr. Ben Carson, physicians do not get involved on a daily basis on the political front. Most instead prefer to spend their time taking care of the sick and downtrodden, the infant needing vaccinations or the geriatric patient needing a hip replacement, but that is not to say physicians do not care or have an opinion on what direction healthcare should take. As the debate on healthcare reform takes place in Connecticut, physicians want you to know that they do want to engage in the process by offering their insights, experience and knowledge. Physicians are willing to fight for a better healthcare delivery system and believe that working together, hand in hand, we can build a better community. Thank you.