



**Statement concerning**

**Senate Bill 361 – An Act Concerning Certificate of Need Requirements for Medical Devices, Equipment and New Technology**

**Public Health Committee**

**February 27, 2013**

This statement is being submitted on behalf of the 385 medical practice manager members of the Connecticut Medical Group Management Association in support of Senate Bill 361 - An Act Concerning Certificate of Need Requirements for Medical Devices, Equipment and New Technology.

As medical practice managers we manage all aspects of medical offices from human resources to accounting to expense management to facility and medical machine management. In managing medical facilities we have first-hand knowledge and experience with the Certificate of Need (CON) process as we are often the ones in charge of completing the process. We cannot begin to express how expensive and time consuming the process is and continues to be. While Senate Bill 361 does not yet have specific legislative language its stated purpose is to ease certificate of need requirements and for this reason we support it.

The CON process was created in an attempt to guarantee access to care however it has not succeeded in doing so. Instead, it has done the exact opposite and because of the subjective nature of the process, it can actually delay quality access to care. While changes to Connecticut's CON requirements were enacted in 2010, the result was to add to the already complex and time consuming process. The process continues to rely on the subjective decision making of the Department of Public Health (DPH) and does nothing to provide any reasonable assurances that there is even the possibility for success. This is not only a burden on our practices while we wait in limbo, but it also impacts our patients who cannot find the care they require.

We respectfully request that this Committee help us offer quality care by passing Senate Bill 361.