

Additional Testimony of
the Fairfield County Medical Association
in Support of
SB 466 – An Act Concerning Continuing Education Courses for Physicians

Public Health Committee

February 20, 2013

Senator Gerrantana, Representative Johnson and members of the Public Health Committee, my name is Mark Thompson, executive director of the Fairfield County Medical Association. On behalf of our 1500 plus physician members, thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony on Senate Bill 466 – An Act Concerning Continuing Education Courses for Physicians.

Previous speakers have already outlined the current CME requirements for physicians in Connecticut for medical license renewal. While the vast majority of states across the nation require a specific number of CME credits per year(s) for physicians, only a handful of states require state-mandated CME content. Of those jurisdictions that do require state-mandated CME content – the more progressive states either require one-time mandated CME content or require specific training for relevant medical specialties.

The Fairfield County Medical Association conducted a recent poll of its members asking whether Connecticut's five mandated CME topics for medical license renewal has had a positive impact on the delivery of quality medical care. Of those physicians who responded only 3 percent said "yes," 12 percent said "somewhat" and 84 percent emphatically said "no." The survey results confirm that for the vast majority of physicians, the CME mandates do not reflect the professional needs of the doctors and help them meet the health care needs of their patients.

The physicians of Fairfield County support the concept of one-time mandated CME requirements, and after taking the required courses the doctors should be free to determine those continuing medical education courses that are most relevant to their own professional needs.

Thank you for your time and we would be pleased to answer any questions.