

The Connecticut Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery Society
The Connecticut ENT Society
The Connecticut Society of Eye Physicians (Eye M.D.s)
The Connecticut Urology Society

March 20, 2013

Written Testimony

Opposing HB1066 AAC Certificate of Need Application Guidelines and Issuance of Decisions

On behalf of over 1000 physicians in the medical specialty fields of Dermatology, Otolaryngology, Ophthalmology and Urology and our patients we oppose further legislation limiting our ability to recruit new doctors in the State. Unfortunately Section 19a-638a of the Connecticut General Statutes does just that.

Section 19a-638a, of the general statutes specifies events that require a Certificate of Need from the Office of Health Care Access of the Connecticut Department of Public Health. Paragraph 4 hones in specifically on "a CT scanner, PET scanner, PET/CT scanner or MRI scanner, cineangiography equipment, a linear accelerator or other similar equipment utilizing technology that is new or being introduced into the state."

While the intent of the legislature was to control healthcare cost, there is no evidence that such has been realized. What is evident is that our citizens do not have easy access to newer technology available in other states and Connecticut is not competitive at attracting new physicians who today demand and look for those states who have the availability of these technologies to support their training and to deliver the care their patients deserve. HB1066 seeks to have the Office of Health care Access consider whether the application is consistent with the goals of federal health care reform and to review the application in a timely manner. We oppose any legislation that works to continue to codify this restrictive law and hope that the general assembly will seek to eliminate CON in Connecticut rather than use the state's fiscal resources in determining if it meets federal health care reform or is done in a timely manner .

The domino effect on recruitment has begun, it started over 4 years ago with restrictive CON language on imaging equipment, whether we can stop it is another question, but one thing is for certain and that is if we want the brightest and best trained young physicians heading up the healthcare delivery system in their relative specialty fields of medicine we need to make Connecticut more attractive to practice medicine in. These individuals will simply not come to Connecticut, especially ENT physicians if CON remains in play and our citizens of this State will unfortunately bear the consequences. CON is anticompetitive, impedes innovation, and only serves those of the status quo who seek to maintain domain of such technologies. **Please oppose SB1066 and change the statute that limits quality and access to care and help Connecticut shape the best healthcare delivery system we can.**

Thank you for your consideration, and the willingness to re-examine this issue.