



The Connecticut Society of Plastic
& Reconstructive Surgeons

Testimony of

CT Society of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgeons

Before the Public Health Committee

On SB 1067, An Act Concerning the Provision of Certain Services at Medical Spas

March 20, 2013

Good Afternoon Senator Gerratana, Rep. Johnson and distinguished members of the Public Health Committee. I am here today as the President of the CT Society of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgeons in support of SB 1067. To quote a recent article on philly.com, "It is a little bit of a Wild West out there." The explosion of Medspas around the country have led to a variety of injuries and even deaths in these facilities. We are before you today with the hope of avoiding that outcome here in Connecticut.

To be clear, Medspas are facilities where surgical and non surgical procedures are performed. Currently, there are no licensure requirements in Connecticut and therefore, there is no regulatory oversight by the department of public health, no facility inspections, no infection control requirements or other patient safety and quality of care guidelines now in place in hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers. Several states have moved to regulate these facilities, with Massachusetts requiring licensure as a clinic. In fact, we would like to see these facilities licensed by the Department of Public Health, but because of budgetary constraints have suggested some requirements be established in the short term to address safety concerns, while further licensure requirements are explored.

Understand that currently in some Medspas, procedures are performed without physician supervision and without patients being seen or evaluated by a physician. In fact, some facilities have medical directors who are retired and no longer even practicing. The bill before you does not fully address the real concerns that currently exist, I have attached a copy of language, which we have discussed with the Department of Public Health and believe to be a step in the right direction. The language adds more specificity to the definition of Medical Spas, broadens the requirements of the medical director and includes an advertising provision similar to what is in place for other specialties. This is essential so that patients can make informed decisions about their healthcare.

In my own practice, I have seen patients who have been treated in these facilities without physician oversight and have needed corrective intervention. These patients present to me with irregular contours and skin irregularities following liposuction, problems associated with lidocaine toxicity, unnatural features following botox and cosmetic filler application and scarring from laser procedures. The DPH has documented a number of proceedings filed against designated providers in Medspas for inappropriate or illegal actions.

This body addressed concerns over patient safety in the office setting several years ago and required physician offices that provided certain levels of anesthesia to become licensed as outpatient surgical centers. A new type of facility-the MedSpa- has been established since that time requiring further regulatory oversight in order to ensure the safety and well-being of Connecticut's patients. I hope you will take this issue seriously and address the safety concerns that exist today, before we read about a patient death in one of Connecticut's Medspas.

Thank you.

“Medical Spa Facility” means any entity, however organized, in which cosmetic procedures are performed, including but not limited to all forms of liposuction, laser procedures, intense pulsed light, administration of cosmetic filling agents and neurotoxins for the purpose of improving an individual’s appearance.

A Medical Spa Facility shall be required to have a medical director who is currently licensed as a physician under chapter 370, actively practicing in this state and, maintains staff privileges within a local hospital, or if they do not have staff privileges, possesses the appropriate education, training, experience and competence to safely perform the cosmetic procedures.

Training programs provided by a manufacturer or vendor of cosmetic medical devices or supplies may not be a physician's only education in the cosmetic medical procedures or the operation of the cosmetic medical devices to be used. ACCME or AOA approved continuing education, or completion of an ACGME or AOA accredited postgraduate program that includes training in cosmetic procedures performed shall meet the education and training requirement. The medical director must perform an initial assessment of each patient prior to a procedure being performed. Such procedure shall only be delegated to or performed by a licensed health care practitioner with applicable statutory authority.

Each Medical Spa Facility shall include the medical director’s name and specialty in any advertisement that appears in a newspaper, telephone directory or other advertising medium and shall post the information in a conspicuous location within the facility.



