

Connecticut ENT Society  
Connecticut Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery Society  
Connecticut Urology Society

**HB No 5250 AAC Contracts Between Optometrists and Health Insurers**

Before the Insurance and Real Estate Committee

On March 7<sup>th</sup> 2014

Good Afternoon, Senator Crisco Representative Megna and other distinguished members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee. My name is Mahesh Bhaya M.D. I am a board certified otolaryngologist (ENT specialist) practicing in Waterbury, Southbury and Southington Connecticut. I am here representing the medical specialty societies of ENT, Urology and Dermatology and praise the insurance committee for raising a bill that is intended to help healthcare providers address one of the problems we face as independent business owners negotiating our services with insurers.

The proposed language should not be limited to dentists or optometrists, but should include all providers of healthcare. Patients should be able to contract directly with any healthcare provider for a non-covered service by that provider. The language proposed should be included in all health plan contracts and not just those for vision or dental.

This bill if written for **all** healthcare providers would not only be a fair and just piece of legislation that would provide protections for healthcare providers but would also be a fair and just bill for patients by promoting transparency. Consumers dislike being misled and most are willing to take some financial responsibility if their health plan does not provide coverage for a given service. .

Finally, we strongly believe protecting all healthcare providers, and not one favored group, is the fairest way to address this issue and would be in the best interest of Connecticut patients and the healthcare providers We strongly urge this committee amend HB 5250 to include all healthcare providers and equate services that are not medically necessary as non-covered services Thank you for your time.