Connecticut Association of Optometrists

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Testimony of the Connecticut Association of Optometrists in support of House Bill 5345

The Connecticut Association of Optometrists (CAO) is the professional association of Connecticut licensed Optometric Physicians. Our members are the primary providers of vision care services to consumers in the state.

We are supportive of House Bill 5345.

The bill would permit the Office of Healthcare Advocate to issue a "certificate of public advantage" allowing medical practitioners the ability to collaborate and work with our colleagues on new ways to improve patient care. Obviously, fees and compensation need to be part of any such undertaking.

The SIM process is moving toward requiring providers to share responsibility for their patients and to base compensation on other than fee-for-service. To do this, we need the ability to talk to our colleagues about the care and risk involved without fear of violating anti-trust. House Bill 5345 sets up a process to permit this and we are supportive of this objective.

Thank you for considering the views of the Connecticut Association of Optometrists.