

Waterbury Medical Association

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**Statement in support of House Bill 5345 –
An Act Concerning Cooperative Health Care Arrangements**

Judiciary Committee

March 11, 2014

This statement is being submitted on behalf of the members of the Waterbury Medical Association in support of House Bill 5345.

Over the past few years, this Committee and the General Assembly have taken numerous positive steps in order to assist physicians in receiving payment from insurers. Despite all of your efforts, problems in receiving payments still persist. The first problem with payment begins even before physicians enter into contracts with the insurer. By entering into a contract with an insurer, physicians are being asked to enter into a risk sharing agreement. However, physicians are often never given the financial information that they need to determine the amount of reimbursement or amount of risk that we will be assuming. You may wonder why physicians would sign such contracts without all the information they need to make an informed decision. The answer is that insurers cover most of our patients and in order to treat them we must sign such contracts. In addition, the strong market hold of the insurers combined with antitrust laws that prohibit physicians from banning together to negotiate with insurers leave us powerless.

The bill before you takes the important step of attempting to level the playing field between insurers and physicians. We hope to be able to work together with this Committee in order to bring fairness in contracting between insurers and physicians.

For more information, please call:

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