



Fairfield County Medical Association
MEMORANDUM OF OPPOSITION
Physicians Dedicated to a Healthier Fairfield County

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**Senate Bill 36- An Act Concerning the Governor's Recommendations to Improve
Access to Health Care**

Submitted to the Public Health Committee

February 28, 2014

As an organization that has advocated for a healthier Fairfield County for more than 222 years, the Fairfield County Medical Association is steadfastly opposed to this proposal. Doctors and nurses have successfully collaborated in caring for patients for hundreds of years. This relationship has resulted in excellent patient care. To terminate this shared responsibility at this point in time would not be in patients' best interest.

There is no great shortage of doctors in the State of Connecticut. On June 28, 2013, the University of Connecticut Center for Public Health and Policy issued a report on the health care workforce within the state. In that report, it was stated that in 2010 there were an estimated 2,585 primary care physicians (PCPs) practicing in Connecticut. In the United States there were an estimated average 59.9 PCPs per 100,000 residents. Connecticut exceeded the national average with 72.3 PCPs per 100,000 residents.

In areas throughout the state, there are federally funded health care centers with physicians, APRN's and other health care professionals on staff to accommodate those patients who reside in underserved locations.

Scope of practice has entered into the equation. Just because one is defined as being capable of performing a task does not mean that they should be executing that task when there are more experienced and qualified individuals who can service the same patients. For example, a board certified dermatologist can take a few courses and become qualified in performing blepharoplasties (eye lifts). Practicing in an area with an adequate supply of plastic surgeons, the dermatologist may choose not to perform the service. Plastic surgeons may have more experience and qualification than the dermatologist for this procedure although their scopes of practice may overlap. Knowing all of the complications of the surgical procedure, the dermatologist may realize their scope of practice needs limits and yield performance of the procedure to the plastic surgeons.

The county medical association would be pleased to work with any APRN to help locate a physician sponsor. The association could also possibly form a committee of physicians to help review charts and assess performance.

Doctors and nurses should continue to work together to deliver the best possible care to the people of Connecticut.