



Connecticut Association of Nurse Anesthetists

Testimony of
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Senate Bill 418
An Act Concerning the Department of Public Health's Recommendations Concerning Medical Spas

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Connecticut General Assembly's Public Health Committee

Good day Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson, Senator Welch, Representative Srinivasan and members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Donna Sanchez and I am a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA), I am here today on behalf of the members of the Connecticut Association of Nurse Anesthetists in support of Senate Bill 418, "An Act Concerning the Department of Public Health's Recommendations Concerning Medical Spas."

In the current language of the bill as it is before us today, Senate Bill 418 does much to ensure the welfare of Connecticut's residents. The current language of this bill comes forth from a working group of healthcare professionals who spent many hours discussing line-by-line what served and protected Connecticut residents best.

We believe the intent of the original bill was to put some structure and uniformity to the facilities that labeled themselves as Medical Spas. And to ensure that there was some accountability of the practitioners who performed procedures on Connecticut's residents. The original bill was designed to add a level of safety to those procedures by ensuring that there was someone overseeing the care that our friends and neighbors received. Procedures needed to be performed by qualified personnel and that the clients were well enough to undergo such procedures especially in light that these procedures were not ones that would improve, preserve or enhance their overall physical health and physical functioning. These procedures are not life saving nor are they medically necessary.

During the work group on Medical Spas, we discussed many issues that arose from this bill. We clearly defined what is a Medical Spa, and who can call themselves a Medical Spa. We outlined what procedures can be performed in these facilities even to the detail of the percentage allowed to be used on chemical peels, the layers of skin that can be manipulated and the devices to be used to achieve the desired effect. It is on this kind of extensive depth that we discussed all aspects of the types of procedures that would be allowable by law to be performed in these facilities that I believe we surely have fulfilled our duty to protect Connecticut's residents from harm.

Furthermore, this bill as it is written does its due diligence by identifying who would be responsible to perform these procedures by virtue of their licensure and training. It also identifies who is accountable to perform the needed physical assessment prior to start of the procedure. All key factors in ensuring that these procedures are made as safe as possible.

Senate Bill 418 provides the Connecticut residents with transparency by knowing just whom would be performing the procedures they seek by legislating that these facilities must provide updated information on the credentials of their personnel not only on their websites but on any advertisements.

It is unrealistic to think that laws can mandate by their very virtue of existence everything possible to ensure that no harm comes to Connecticut's residents but we believe this bill can at least eliminate some common elements to the potential for harm.

I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to present you with this testimony and I would be glad to answer any questions.