



**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 438**  
**An Act Concerning The Certification Of Stroke Centers**  
**Public Health Committee**  
**March 19, 2014**

Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson and members of the Public Health Committee, on behalf of the physicians and physicians in training of the Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS) and the CT Chapter of the American College of Physicians (CT ACP) and the CT Chapter of the American College of Surgeons (CT ACS), thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony to you today in support of Senate Bill 438 An Act Concerning The Certification of Stroke Centers.

CSMS is pleased to add its support for the legislation before you, the product of a tremendous amount of work and effort by many individuals and organizations including the American Heart Association and the Stroke Coordinators of Connecticut Group.

In Connecticut alone we lose nearly 1,500 of our citizens to this disease that currently is the 4<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death overall and the leading cause of adult long-term disability. State of the art care demands prompt treatment in order to minimize damage from a stroke. The need to develop a strong stroke response system of centers receiving accreditation from nationally recognized organization is evident. Language contained in Senate Bill 438 would ensure that a system is in place on Connecticut that ensures that rapid care is available by appropriately trained individuals in facilities meeting the highest standard for quality of care for stroke victims.

Please support Senate Bill 438