CONNECTICUT CHAPTER
of the American College of Surgeons
Professional Association, Inc.

Connecticut Chapter of the American College of Surgeons

February 23, 2015

SUPPORTING Testimony

before the Public Health Committee

H.B. 5625 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFINITITON OF SURGERY

Good Morning Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and distinguished members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Dr. Brendan Campbell and I'm a pediatric surgeon. I practice in Hartford at Connecticut Children's Medical Center and am an Assistant Professor of Surgery and Pediatrics at the UConn School of Medicine. I am also a Councilor of the Connecticut Chapter of the American College of Surgeons.

I am here today to support H.B. 5625 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFINITION OF SURGERY on behalf of the over 230 member surgeons of the Connecticut Chapter of the American College of Surgeons along with over 150 surgical resident members (surgeons in training) in Connecticut.

As my colleagues have testified to the evolution of surgery, the training and education required to become a surgeon, I will be presenting testimony on the surgical quality programs in our state and the importance of this definition to those efforts.

Surgical Quality Initiatives in Connecticut

Surgery is both the act of transforming tissue in an irreversible way, and the care provided before, during, and after the procedure. Every surgeon's goal is achieving the optimal patient outcome, not just a successful operation.

The American College of Surgeons (ACS) is at the forefront of improving surgical quality. The ACS has specialty programs for Trauma, Cancer, lifelong learning, and resident education. The American College of Surgeons National Surgical Quality Improvement Program® (ACS NSQIP®) promotes the highest standards of surgical care through evaluation of surgical outcomes in clinical practice. NSQIP is a nationally validated, risk-adjusted program that improves the quality of surgical care.

In 2011, the CTACSPA formed the Connecticut Surgical Quality Collaborative ("CtSQC") to provide a forum in which surgeons share knowledge and best practices

for surgical patients. Currently, over 20 Connecticut hospitals are active members of this collaborative and 16 Connecticut hospitals are utilizing the ACS' NSQIP risk-adjusted database for their quality improvement programs. The CtSQC has received nearly $300,000 in grants, and recently launched a statewide Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) initiative to enhance patient outcomes.

Patient Care and the Definition of Surgery

By placing a vetted definition of surgery that was written by the American College of Surgeons, and based on a definition voted on and accepted by the American Medical Association into the Connecticut statutes we believe that the quality of care for surgical patients will be improved for the citizens of Connecticut. Our definition does not seek to prevent any physicians from performing any procedures that they can do today under their current scope. Instead, it seeks to establish a standardized definition to allow the medical boards in Connecticut to evaluate future technological development in a consistent manner that will assures maximal patient safety.

The art and science of surgery and the human body have withstood the tests of time and technology. We are seeking to codify a Definition of Surgery that will do the same.

Respectfully submitted,

Brendan T. Campbell, MD, MPH, FACS