

2/16/2015

Testimony submitted regarding, Proposed H.B. No. 5625 REP. SRINIVASAN, 31st DIST. 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFINITION OF SURGERY', to adopt a definition of surgery.

Representative Srinivasan and distinguished Committee members:

My name is Nikki Rasmussen. I am a Registered Nurse currently pursuing a degree as a Family Nurse Practitioner. I also own a business that primarily provides cosmetic medical procedures, including Laser. I submit this testimony in strong opposition of Proposed Bill 5625.

The current proposal to define “surgery,” has long reaching effects on who can then perform, delegate and be reimbursed for such procedures that are routinely and safely done, by non-surgeons.

The current proposed definition of surgery appears to include cosmetic type procedures, such as laser hair removal, IPL, skin tightening, and laser resurfacing which are included in the scope of practice of other providers who are not physicians.

If the definition of surgery is not intended to impact the scope of practice of other providers such as APRNs, PA’s, and RN’s a statement should be put in that is to that effect. For example, in Illinois, the regulation dealing with the use of light emitting devices makes it clear that the language is not intended to prevent other providers from practicing within their scope.

Currently, the Connecticut board of nursing considers cosmetic medical procedures, including the use of lasers for hair removal, age and sun spot removal, capillary removal and impulse light treatment to be the practice of medicine (note: not that practice of surgery) and to be within the scope of practice of a RN and APRNs. If the suggested version of surgery is adopted as it is written in the proposal, it will impact and change, the scope of practice for RNs and APRNs.

In 2013 the Connecticut Chapter of American College of Surgeon’s submitted a scope of practice request to the Department of Public Health regarding the definition of surgery. This request was not chosen. HB 5625 includes language that was included in the 2013 scope of practice request. I consider HB 5625 to be vague and does not serve to protect the public, nor does it clearly define surgery. However, HB. 5625 does have the potential to impact RN, APRN, and PA scope of practice by disallowing the use of lasers for cosmetic laser procedures, as well as other procedures routinely performed by APRNs. As such, if legislation is proposed regarding the definition of surgery, I respectfully request that a statement be included similar to what was included in the Illinois statute that makes it clear that the language is not meant to prevent other providers from practicing within their scope.

Respectfully,

Nikki Rasmussen, RN, Principal Yolo LLC, DBA Yolo Laser Center & Med Spa