



Written Testimony of the Connecticut Orthopaedic Society

Opposing House Bill 6938 An Act Concerning The Delivery of Quality Health Care and Modernization of Health Care Facilities

Public Health Committee – March 11, 2015

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and distinguished Members of the Public Health Committee, on behalf of the more than 250 orthopaedic surgeons of the Connecticut Orthopaedic Society, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in opposition to House Bill 6938, AA Concerning The Delivery of Quality Health Care and Modernization of Health Care Facilities.

This bill seeks to consider state financing options in the form of bond options and low or no interest loans, with job mandates, to enable hospitals to acquire medical equipment, update information technology, renovate and build health care facilities.

This bill is an anticompetitive measure as it puts less expensive, safer care facilities, such as ambulatory surgical centers at an economic disadvantage and seeks to secure the viability of hospital businesses that may no longer be able to compete in the 21st century by providing funding with tax payer dollars in exchange for job creation.

Many of our orthopaedic colleagues own and operate Ambulatory Surgery Centers (ASCs) and have designed, built, modernized and maintained our successful businesses without government intercession or funding, while employing thousands of health care workers at sustainable jobs with solid income. We have gone through the arduous and expensive Certificate of Need process to justify our business model and the benefit to Connecticut citizens without any special financial or regulatory assistance from the state.

This government bailout of hospitals which may no longer serve the need of the community should be opposed. All businesses, including hospitals, must adapt to changing technology, modernize their facilities to meet consumer demand. Those businesses that cannot develop a sustainable business model should not be given special dispensation from the state in the form of tax payer subsidies, especially during our state's current fiscal crises. The current lackluster programs of Department of Economic and Community Development and Connecticut Innovations should be used as an indicator of the potential for failure for this similar program being proposed with this bill.

The orthopaedic surgeons in CT ask you to oppose this bill and we thank you for your serious consideration and appreciate your time in reviewing our written testimony submission.

Submitted by:

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