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Connecticut State Medical Society Testimony
Senate Bill 810 An Act Establishing A Special Commission On Provider Price Variation
And Reform
Public Health Committee
March 11, 2015

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and Members of the Public Health Committee, on behalf of the physicians and physicians in training of the Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS) and all the organizations listed above, thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony in support of **Senate Bill 810 An Act Establishing A Special Commission On Provider Price Variation And Reform.**

Before you today, we have provided testimony on proposed legislation including Senate Bill 687 An Act Concerning Notice To Patients Of Costs For Routine Health Services, Senate Bill 809 An Act Concerning Facility Fees and Senate Bill 813 An Act Concerning Health Care Price, Cost and Quality Transparency. In this testimony we provided comprehensive information regarding how the current healthcare landscape and structure is creating significant disparities within the healthcare system regarding costs, access and the ability of certain physicians to remain viable within the current structure.

Many cost drivers within the system are unrelated to the quality of care being delivered and are often based on negotiating power, for which we have pointed out community physicians have little or none. Often, cost is driven by market power and determined by who has the most.

Senate Bill 810, by establishing a Commission to study price variation in insurance reimbursement rates for health care services and the variations impact on costs, insurance premiums and access to care is necessary and needed provided (1) representation from physicians is prominent and (2) the establishment of a Commission does not become a substitute for addressing the multitude of concerns we have raised in testimony before this Committee and others this session.