



**Testimony Presented to the
Public Health Committee
HB 5374 An Act Concerning Licensing of Physicians
March 11, 2015**

Senator Gerrantana, Representative Ritter and other distinguished members of the Public Health Committee. On behalf of the Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS) and the thousands of physicians and physicians in training of the organizations included above, we present testimony today on **HB 5374 An Act Concerning Licensing of Physicians**.

We understand and recognizes that unfortunately there are times when physicians engage in egregious conduct resulting in the loss of medical licensure. State medical boards around the country have revoked physician licenses for unlawful and improper conduct related to the practice of medicine. We support the concept that a Any healthcare professional who has his or her license revoked in another state due to egregious and improper conduct in the clinical practice of their profession should not be allowed to practice in the State of Connecticut.

That said, we urge caution on House Bill 5374 to ensure it does not have unintended consequences. As currently drafted, House Bill 5374 casts a very wide net and physicians who have had their licenses revoked in another state for reasons not related to improper conduct in the clinical practice of medicine can unintentionally get caught in this net.

As an example, beginning in 2015, Massachusetts physicians that are renewing their license must demonstrate proficiency in the use of electronic health records and the non-clinical skills to achieve federal meaningful use standards. It is predicted that some Massachusetts physicians may lose their licenses due to this requirement because they are unable to meet certain of these standards. CSMS would not want to see a potentially excellent physician who loses his or her license in Massachusetts due to this state requirement to meet unattainable Federal standards be prohibited from practicing medicine in Connecticut.

As a further example, reviewing medical board websites around the country, there are numerous examples of a physician's license being revoked for failure to meet certain Continuing Medical Education (CME) requirements, many of which are based on technicalities or a misunderstanding of the CME requirements. In these situations the medical boards had no choice but to revoke a license based on a technicality although conduct and clinical capabilities were not in question. While we believe CME is important for physicians, we do not believe that a physician should be prohibited from practicing medicine in Connecticut due to a technical failure to meet CME requirements in another state.

We applaud the intent of HB 5374 and the effort to maintain the high integrity of physician practice in Connecticut and welcomes the opportunity to work with the committee. However, as we have noted, we have concerns related the potential unintended consequences of the language of this proposed legislation and we stand ready to work with the Committee to guarantee that ANY health care professional who does not meet the highest standards not be granted licensure.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony to you today.