

February 20, 2015



The Honorable Terry B. Gerratana  
The Honorable Matt Ritter  
Co-Chairs, Joint Committee on Public Health  
Connecticut State Legislature  
Legislative Office Building, Room 3000  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Chairpersons Gerratana and Ritter:

On behalf of the 13,500 U.S. members of the American Academy of Dermatology Association (AADA), I am writing in support of House Bill 5625, which would define “surgery” in statute. This language mirrors policy of the American Medical Association and the American College of Surgeons. Both organizations have worked diligently with many medical and surgical specialties to derive a definition that is inclusive and useful relative to the historic and present practice of surgery. The practice of dermatology includes, but is not limited to, performing any medical, surgical or aesthetic act or procedure that can alter or cause biologic change or damage to the skin and subcutaneous tissue.

Procedures by any means, methods, devices, or instruments that can alter or cause biologic change or damage the skin and subcutaneous tissue constitute the practice of medicine and surgery. These include but are not limited to the use of: scalpels; all lasers and light sources, microwave energy, electrical impulses, and all other energy emitting devices; thermal destruction; chemical application; particle sanding; and other foreign or natural substances by injection or insertion.

Cosmetic medical procedures and surgeries are being offered in non-traditional settings, such as medical spa facilities, and by providers with limited to no formal training or education in this area of medicine, and patients are being harmed. The establishment of a precise definition of surgery in statute would provide clarity and transparency to the public, thereby preventing misrepresentation of the seriousness and potential risks of lasers and the other procedures listed in the definition.

To date, nearly half of the states have enacted language that mirrors or is nearly identical to the definition set forth in HB 5625. I urge you and your colleagues to support HB 5625, which is supported by the medical community. I appreciate the opportunity to provide written comments on this important issue. For further information, please contact Lisa Albany,

*American Academy of Dermatology Association*  
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Associate Director of State Policy for the AADA, at [LAlbany@aad.org](mailto:LAlbany@aad.org) or (202)842-3555.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brett Coldiron MD". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B" and a distinct "MD" at the end.

Brett Coldiron, MD, FAAD  
President, American Academy of Dermatology Association