



Statement of the
American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery
to the
Joint Committee on Public Health
Regarding HB 5625
February 19, 2015

The American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery (AAO-HNS) appreciates the opportunity to comment on its **support for HB 5625, a bill concerning the definition of surgery.**

As background, the AAO-HNS, with a membership of more than 12,000 individuals, represents surgeons who diagnose and treat disorders of the ears, nose, throat, and related structures of the head and neck, including nearly 170 members who live and practice in Connecticut. Otolaryngologist-head and neck surgeons, commonly referred to as ear, nose, and throat specialists (ENTs), diagnose and treat medical disorders that commonly afflict many Americans, including hearing and vestibular disorders, speech and swallowing disorders, head and neck cancer, chronic ear infections, sinusitis, snoring and sleep apnea, facial and cranial nerve disorders, and reconstructive and elective facial cosmetic surgery.

With the frequent emergence of new medical technologies, it is not surprising the field of medicine has changed dramatically in the last few decades. If enacted, HB 5625 would provide an updated, comprehensive definition of medical procedures that constitute surgery. By accurately defining surgery, you will preserve and modernize the more than 425 references of this term made in Connecticut's General Statutes and decades of work on this issue. Additionally, HB 5625 will ensure surgical procedures are only performed by those medical professionals who are properly qualified and trained to do so within Connecticut's existing scope of practice laws.

For the health, safety, and well-being of Connecticut's patients, the AAO-HNS respectfully urges the Joint Public Health Committee to support HB 5625. Thank you for this opportunity to comment, and please contact govtaffairs@entnet.org with questions.

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