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February 23, 2015

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

Re: Support HB 5625

Dear Co-Chairs Gerratana and Ritter,

The American Urological Association (AUA), representing more than 90 percent of practicing urologists in the United States, supports House Bill 5625, which adopts an official definition of surgery. The AUA supports the definition of surgery provided in HB 5625, which is consistent with definitions adopted by the American Medical Association and the American College of Surgeons.

Ensuring patient safety and successful outcomes are paramount concerns for physicians. Urologists are surgeons that provide care for patients suffering from conditions such as prostate cancer, kidney cancer, stone disease, and male infertility.

By establishing a definition of surgery, Connecticut will adopt clear policy on what constitutes surgery and who may perform surgery on patients. Not adopting a precise definition simply leaves too much room for interpretation and error, especially as many profound changes and transitions are taking place in the healthcare field, including an increased emphasis on providing value, transitioning to team based care, and the exploration of new payment models.

We thank you for your consideration and appreciate the opportunity to express our support for this bill. If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact John Kristan, Government Relations and Advocacy Coordinator at 202-403-8505 or jkristan@auanet.org

Sincerely,

David Penson, M.D.
Chair, AUA Health Policy Council

Advancing Urology™

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