



February 23, 2015

SUPPORTING Testimony  
before the Public Health Committee

H.B. 5625 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFINITION OF  
SURGERY

Good Afternoon Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and other distinguished members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Dr. Kourosh Parham, I am a board certified otolaryngologist practicing in Farmington, CT at UCONN. I am a current board member of the Connecticut Ear Nose and Throat Society, representing over 140 Connecticut Otolaryngologists in support of H.B. 5025 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFINITION OF SURGERY

We, as physicians, take great pride in the commitment and dedication it takes to achieve the degree of Medical Doctor. When we decided to become surgeons, we worked even harder to earn the gift of being able to competently transform and alter living tissue. ENT specialists have invested over 10,000 hours in specialty training in order to master this invaluable ability and privilege to significantly impact another human being's life.

In the past, black and white statements were defined and clear-cut; now we contend with many shades of gray, and unfortunately the term "surgery" has lost its clarity, making a Definition of Surgery now imperative. Over two dozen states have wisely realized this, and have passed various versions of the definition of surgery. This has helped to educate the public, improve consumer transparency and subsequently help protect patients from those who use the word "surgery" erroneously, and at times, misleadingly.

The defining principle of surgery is the concept that living tissue can be transposed and transformed in ways to improve health, to eradicate disease, and to improve human function.

The honor and privilege of touching and forever altering a person's body mandates proper education, training, supervision, to ensure safe and reliable procedures and outcomes.

In Connecticut, laws exist defining who can perform surgery. The Department of Public Health does an excellent and thorough job of reviewing scope of practice requests and making appropriate recommendations. A clear-cut Definition of Surgery will help to ensure that only appropriately trained providers offer and advertise these well-defined services, and improve the safety of the citizens and patients within our state of Connecticut.

If there are any questions I will be happy to take them at this time.

