

HB 5625



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Statement of Eric Kosofsky, D.P.M.
House Bill 5625, *An Act Concerning the Definition of Surgery*
Public Health Committee
February 23, 2015

Sen. Gerratana, Rep. Ritter and members of the committee:

On behalf of the Connecticut Podiatric Medical Association I am speaking in opposition to House Bill 5625, *An Act Concerning the Definition of Surgery*.

Past versions of this bill, most recently in 2013, provided a definition of surgery that applied to Section 20-9, meaning only MDs and DOs would be permitted to perform it. This raised a significant concern for scope of practice restrictions on Doctors of Podiatric Medicine.

We note that this bill draft is different in that it only contains a definition. Our concerns still stand, however.

Podiatrists perform surgery as defined in this proposed definition of surgery. Podiatrists perform fracture repair of the foot and ankle, diabetic limb salvage, amputations, reconstructive surgeries on the foot and ankle, all within the hospital setting.

We are concerned that HB 5625 could lead to confusion and challenges over our ability to continue to perform surgery. This could cause a dislocation in the healthcare system.

The better solution is to have this issue discussed in a Scope of Practice Review Committee process over at the Department of Public Health.

Due to the potential for unknown ramifications of HB 5625, we would request that you take no action on the bill. Thank you.