



**Testimony to the Public Committee**

**Submitted by Mag Morelli, President of LeadingAge Connecticut**

**February 23, 2015**

**Regarding**

**House Bill 5625, An Act Concerning the Definition of Surgery**

[LeadingAge Connecticut](#) is a statewide membership organization representing not-for-profit provider organizations serving older adults across the continuum of aging services, including not-for-profit skilled nursing facilities, residential care homes, home health care agencies, hospice agencies, adult day centers, assisted living communities, senior housing and continuing care retirement communities. On behalf of LeadingAge Connecticut I am pleased to submit the following testimony to the Public Health Committee on House Bill 5625, *An Act Concerning the Definition of Surgery*.

LeadingAge Connecticut does not object to the concept of defining surgery, but we caution the Committee to carefully consider the ramifications of defining this term in statute. Once the law is enacted, the practices that are defined as surgery will be protected and limited to only those licensed to perform them in statute. We know from past experience that statutory modifications of this type of protected practice can be very difficult. Therefore we ask that the Committee carefully consider the potential ramifications of enacting a definition that might restrict current and future health care practices.

In long term, post-acute and sub-acute care, there may be current practices that could be challenged by this definition. One in particular that comes to mind is wound care treatment. We do not feel that these challenges are insurmountable, but we are concerned and ask the Committee to be very cautious in moving forward and to consider all settings, situations, consumers and health care practitioners before enacting such a restrictive definition.

Because we feel that this concept may impact sub-acute, post-acute and long term care facilities, we would be interested in discussing the proposal further if the Committee chooses to move forward with the proposed definition.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony on this issue. Please consider us to be a resource to you as you consider this and other issues related to aging services.

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