

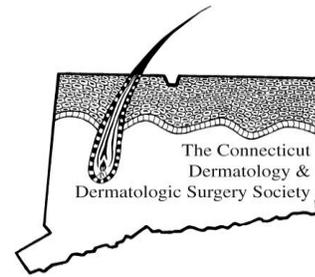
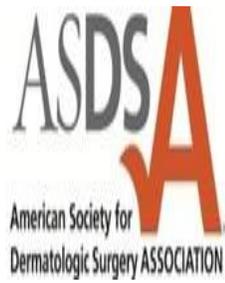
February 23, 2015

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. Omar Ibrahim, and I am a board certified dermatologist and MOHS surgeon practicing in Stamford, CT. I am also the Medical Director of the Connecticut Skin Institute and author of over 65 research articles and book chapters on skin cancer surgery, laser and cosmetic procedures in leading medical journals. I am here as an Executive Board member of the Connecticut Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery Society and also testifying for the over 6,000 members of the American Society of Dermatology Surgery Association testimony in support of HB 5625 An Act Concerning the Definition of Surgery.

The definition proposed in HB 5625 is consistent with that adopted by both the American Medical Association and the American College of Surgeons. As included in HB 5625's proposed definition, CDS and ASDSA believe that the performance of any act or procedure that uses a biologic or synthetic material, or chemical application of any kind if it alters or damages or is capable of altering or damaging living tissue is surgery. Additionally, we believe that the performance of any act or procedure using a mechanical device, or displaced energy form of any kind if it damages or is capable of damaging living tissue is also surgery. Such acts or procedures include, for example, the use of all lasers, light sources, radio frequency energy,



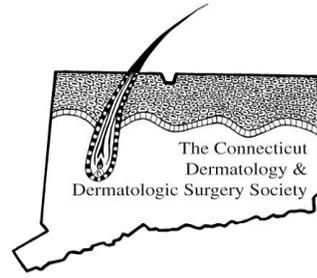
microwave energy, electrical impulses, ultrasound energy, chemical application, particle sanding, the injection or insertion of foreign or natural substances, or soft tissue augmentation. Living tissue is any layer below the dead cell layer (stratum corneum) of the epidermis. The epidermis, below the stratum corneum, and dermis are living tissue layers. Certain FDA-approved Class I and II devices, by their intended or improper use, can damage below the stratum corneum. Therefore, their use and the diagnosis and treatment surrounding their use, constitutes surgery. It should also be noted that in recent years published research shows that about 75% of the lawsuits having to do with lasers are in settings where a non-physician is doing the treatments in primary medical spas and how this is a public safety issue and that the overall number of lawsuits are increasing with the laxity in laws regulating who can perform these procedures safely.

In addition, I would like to share with this committee some photos from a few patients who suffered complications from laser surgery that was performed by under qualified non- M.D. providers in Medspa settings. Although this is just a small sampling of some of the damage I have seen I hope it will help serve as a testimonial of the power these surgical modalities have when used on the skin.

Thank you for your time and I will gladly answer any questions at this time.



ASDSA
American Society for
Dermatologic Surgery ASSOCIATION



ASDSA
American Society for
Dermatologic Surgery ASSOCIATION

