



Written Testimony of the Connecticut Orthopaedic Society

Opposing House Bill 6487 An Act Concerning Standards for Telemedicine Services

Public Health Committee – February 23, 2015

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and distinguished Members of the Public Health Committee, on behalf of the more than 250 orthopaedic surgeons of the Connecticut Orthopaedic Society, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in opposition to *House Bill 6487 An Act Concerning Standards for Telemedicine Services*.

In the constantly changing and advancing technology in health care, there are potential benefits of telemedicine in communities where urgent medical care in extreme rural areas is not readily available however, in Connecticut this is not a significant issue as there is minimal barrier to care that would be solved by the practice of telemedicine.

The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons position on telemedicine identifies problems associated with telemedicine including venue, licensure, standard of care and informed consent and this bill lacks clarification, details and criteria for the practice of telemedicine in Connecticut. In addition, privacy and confidentiality is the bedrock of the physician patient relationship and while this bill addresses secure technology, there are limited to no way to ensure that the technological component of telemedicine will not be breached.

The move to incorporate the appropriate use of telemedicine into the practice of medicine must be given careful consideration and the orthopaedic surgeons in CT would welcome the opportunity to meet with the sponsors of this bill and the other telemedicine related bills to discuss clear, concise, criteria specific language that would ensure that only state licensed practitioners practicing within our state's scope of practice statutes be considered for telemedicine privileges.

Thank you.

Submitted by:

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