



Testimony to the Public Committee

Submitted by Mag Morelli, President of LeadingAge Connecticut

February 23, 2015

Regarding

Senate Bill 246, An Act Defining and Establishing Standards for Practice of Telemedicine

Senate Bill 467, An Act Concerning the Facilitation of Telemedicine

House Bill 6487, An Act Concerning Standards for Telemedicine Services

[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 the bills before you today regarding the practice of telemedicine.

LeadingAge Connecticut supports the advancement of aging-services technologies and believes they can transform the aging experience and enhance care and services for older adults. Safety technologies, health and wellness technologies, social connectedness technologies and electronic documentation technologies are all important aspects of aging services technologies.

LeadingAge Connecticut believes that technology and telemedicine will play a crucial role in the future of aging services. While this is promising, we do remain cautious and believe that precautions must be in place to ensure a standard of care in telemedicine that is the same as that required of all providers by state statute and regulation. We therefore commend the Committee's effort to ensure an appropriate standard of care for telemedicine in the state. We also urge the Committee to consider the future potential for technology and telemedicine when you draft a final bill so as not to place unnecessary barriers to appropriate advancements in patient care.

For the Committee's information, the following is a link to the *LeadingAge Center for Aging Services Technologies (CAST)* website which includes information and resources regarding the development, evaluation and adoption of emerging technologies that can improve the aging experience: <http://www.leadingage.org/CAST.aspx>

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.

Mag Morelli, President of LeadingAge Connecticut

mmorelli@leadingagect.org, (203) 678-4477, 110 Barnes Road, Wallingford, CT 06492