



Written Testimony of the Connecticut Orthopaedic Society

Opposing *Senate Bill 467 An Act Concerning the Facilitation of Telemedicine*

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 *Senate Bill 467 An Act Concerning the Facilitation of Telemedicine*.

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.

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 any discussion of telemedicine must include ways to ensure that the technological component of telemedicine cannot 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:

Ross A. Benthien, M.D.

Connecticut Orthopaedic Society – President

Orthopaedic Associates of Hartford, Hartford, CT

CONNECTICUT ORTHOPAEDIC SOCIETY
phone (860)690-1146 –ctorthoexec@gmail.com - www.ctortho.org