



Written Testimony of the Connecticut Orthopaedic Society

Opposing Senate Bill 813 An Act Concerning Health Care Price, Cost and Quality Transparency

Public Health Committee – March 11, 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 813, AAC Health Care Price, Cost and Quality Transparency.

As stated in previous testimony submitted on SB 687, the orthopaedic surgeons agree that empowering consumers to make informed decisions based on the price of health care services covered by the insurance plan they purchased is important as more and more are underwriting the cost of their insurance through high deductible health care plans.

This bill not only requires physicians and other healthcare providers to share their contractual pricing agreements with insurers but also each hospital would be required to do provide and publicize such data. We respectfully remind the Committee that individual physician contracts with health insurance for pricing can not be made available due to federal laws which prohibit us from sharing our contracts with other physicians and health care providers. We urge the Committee to consider the only source of relevant consumer information would be from their individual health insurance carrier based on the coverage they or their employer has purchased.

The consumer education component of this bill which is outlined in Section (A)(iv)and(v) and some plans such as Aetna currently provide pricing information to their clients based on procedure and/or service via their website. While the pricing information provided is an estimated range and the process to obtain the information can be a time consuming and frustrating task, it is up to the consumer to be fully educated on the price of care the insurance carriers are charging and covering.

We appreciate the co-sponsors of this bill intentions and urge the Committee members to address the educational needs of consumers who purchase health insurance by having health insurance companies provide consumer friendly information in a readily accessible format.

The orthopaedic surgeons in CT thank you for your serious consideration and we appreciate your time in reviewing our written testimony submission.

Submitted by:

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