



**Written Testimony of the Connecticut Orthopaedic Society**

***Opposing Senate Bill 815 An Act Concerning Health Care Policy and Cost Containment***

**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 815, AA Concerning Health Care Policy and Cost Containment.

The establishment of yet another tax payer funded Commission to exclusively mandate and collect data from physicians is an unnecessary tax expense in a budget year that is increasingly burdened.

As you know, physician fees are only a small portion of the health care expenditures and this bill does not address the other larger expenditures including hospitals, lab and diagnostic costs and consumer demand. Failure of this bill to include many other health care cost contributors indicates a legislature that is ill informed or targeting one group of professionals.

This bill also requires the Commission to review mergers and acquisitions. It is the position of the COS that mechanisms already exist in state to address unreasonable concentration of market power, and we are unaware of any crisis in this area in the medical marketplace that would justify this mandated step for government review of mergers and acquisitions of private businesses. Public Act No. 14-168 was voted by this legislature and signed into law by Governor Malloy in 2014. By requiring a review of mergers and acquisitions by a newly formed Commission is a duplication of effort and costs for both physicians and the state government.

The orthopaedic surgeons in CT ask you to oppose this bill as it is incomplete and does not consider the myriad of other costs that add to the health care dollar. We thank you for your serious consideration and we appreciate your time in reviewing our written testimony submission.

Submitted by:

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