



Written Testimony of the Connecticut Orthopaedic Society

Supporting Senate Bill 809 and Senate Bill 993 *An Act Concerning Facility Fees*

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 support of SB 809 and SB 993, AA Concerning Facility Fees.

As stated in our previous testimony on Senate Bill 687, we support price transparency and these two bills would provide much needed transparency for consumers utilizing facilities when seeking health care services at hospitals. Often, patients are unaware of the added and facility substantial fee, which may not be covered by their health insurance plan. As you know, hospital facility fees for outpatient care are not warranted by any added value to the care received by patients, and are used as vehicle to increase the revenue of hospital that have acquired physician practices. Furthermore, the rapid consolidation of the marketplace for medical services, through hospital acquisition of private medical practices, is likely driven in no small part by the unjustified, yet lucrative imposition of facility fees on outpatient services.

Both of these bills would provide for the disclosure of fees and Senate Bill 993 provides for clear mandate on the notification required and the required posting along with an important disclaimer to the patient that they may incur financial liability greater in a hospital based facility. Senate Bill 809 to limit facility fees is a reasonable approach to a broad and expensive range of facility fees charged on top of actual health care services provided.

The full disclosure to consumers will not only provide awareness of a potentially expensive out of pocket charge but will also allow them to contact their health insurance plan to determine coverage of the facility fee before utilizing the health care service.

The orthopaedic surgeons in CT appreciate the need for and we ask you to support these bills. Thank you for your serious consideration and appreciate your time in reviewing our written testimony submission.

Submitted by:

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