

Testimony on S.B. 5447
Tom Tassone
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- Mr. Chairman/Madam Chair members of the committee, for the record, my name is Tom Tassone, and I am the Director of Health Plans for the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care, here today in strong support of House Bill 5447.
- The Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC) is a private, non-profit organization that was formed in 1979.
- AAAHC currently accredits more than 6,000 organizations in a wide variety of ambulatory health care settings including ambulatory surgery centers, community health centers, medical and dental group practices, medical home practices, and managed care organizations, as well as Indian and student health centers.
- The AAAHC is also the official accrediting organization for the US Coast Guard.
- While the AAAHC accredits over 50 health care organizations in Connecticut, the AAAHC is not listed in Connecticut's statute as an organization that can accredit "managed care organizations", a designation that is required in Connecticut to be able to accredit such entities.
- It is my understanding that this omission was not in any way deliberate. Rather, it was simply that, when the statute was adopted, the AAAHC didn't reach out to the legislature to mention that the Association should be included.
- As the **largest ambulatory health care accrediting organization in the country**, the AAAHC appreciates the Committee's introduction of H.B. 5447, so we can join Connecticut's existing list of organizations recognized to accredit "managed care organizations".
- AAAHC researched the statutes and regulations of all 50 states about a year and a half ago and we identified 7 states that had either statutory or regulatory barriers that would prevent the AAAHC from being able to accredit "managed care organizations". Specifically, these were states that named accrediting organizations, and did not include the AAAHC among their named list of accreditors.

- ...and I would note that these organizations already have the option to be accredited by the AAAHC in other states. So, this legislation would not be trying anything new. **It would simply allow these organizations to have the same option in Connecticut that they already have in other states.**
- Thank you for your time and consideration. ...And with that I would be happy to answer any questions.



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November 13, 2014

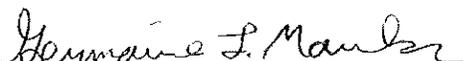
Tom Tassone
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Dear Mr. Tassone:

Thank you for your October 30, 2014 letter seeking approval of the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care, Inc. (AAAHC) as a "nationally recognized accreditation process" pursuant to ARS §20-2510(A)(2). AAAHC provided thorough and substantial documentation regarding its processes and standards, and participated in a teleconference with key Department of Insurance personnel to discuss our regulatory process.

After careful consideration of all relevant factors and pursuant to ARS §20-2510(A)(2), I have determined that AAAHC is a nationally recognized accreditation process.

Sincerely,


Germaine L. Marks
Director

cc: Erin Klug
Dr. Linda Beguin