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**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION**

Senate Bill No. 225

**An Act Augmenting the Fee Schedule for Radiology Services
Under the Workers' Compensation Act**

Testimony of John A. Mastropietro, Chairman

Committee on Labor and Public Employees
March 3, 2016

Thank you for the opportunity to present comments concerning Senate Bill 225, An Act Augmenting the Fee Schedule for Radiology Services under the Workers' Compensation Act. Due to a prior commitment in Hartford, I am unable to attend tonight's proceedings. Senate Bill 225 proposes to augment the Workers' Compensation Fee Schedule for radiology services by 15%. I find such a request potentially troubling.

Please be advised that our Facility Fee Schedule (pursuant to 31-294d(d)&(e)) and our Professional Fee Schedule (pursuant to 31-280(b)(11)(B)) are formulated based on Medicare. The legislative purpose of these laws was to provide an objective source to establish the base upon which reimbursements would be made. When a decrease occurs in the Medicare reimbursement schedule, so will our fees decrease unless justification exists for utilizing a conversion factor to meet the particular needs of Connecticut. Our recent Fee Schedules reflect the decreases established by Medicare.

By all accounts, the Fee Schedules have worked well. Although there will always be a desire for greater compensation to the provider of services, the overwhelming majority of providers understand the give and take nature of what we are attempting to do by providing an injured worker the medical treatment and services they need in as timely a manner as possible, while keeping a close eye on the costs associated with doing same. To allow one segment of the medical population to be singled out and provided a greater benefit simply by special legislation would in my estimation open a Pandora's Box for any other medical discipline that wishes to see the Fee Schedule raised for its area. That would begin the unraveling of the Fee Schedule and make the intent of the legislation impotent.

Finally, there has been a continuing explosion of third party vendors in the workers' compensation system in recent years. Instead of an insurance company processing requests for radiology-related services, they have chosen to farm that responsibility out to third party vendors. Those vendors are paid a percentage of the fee charged for the radiology service rendered. Consequently, when radiology fees are reduced, so are the fees paid to a third party vendor to schedule the test. This may perhaps explain why this bill has been requested. In short, it is not needed, nor will it in any way enhance the services provided to injured workers under the workers' compensation system.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to be heard.