



**Testimony of Dr. Cynthia Heller, VP and Medical Director, Primary Care  
Hartford HealthCare Medical Group  
Submitted to the Public Health Committee  
SB 351 “AAC Matters Affecting Physicians and Hospitals”**

Good afternoon, Senator Gerratana and Representative Ritter and members of the Public Health Committee, I am Dr. Cynthia Heller. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to today on SB 351 “An Act Concerning Matters Affecting Physicians and Hospitals.” In my role as Director of primary care for the Hartford HealthCare medical group I want to voice my opposition to Section 1 of the proposal that deals with physician non-compete agreements.

When we bring on physicians at HHCMG, we are making a very large financial investment of salary, malpractice insurance and overhead for practice locations. We’re talking about several hundred thousand dollars before any real income is produced. It now takes three to four years for a physician to build a revenue producing patient base and it is the practice that supports a doctor in those building years.

For the most part, physicians now practice in groups and when a patient leaves a practice because a physician has left, the group loses revenue and their investment dollars. Language in the bill on limiting the number of miles for a non-compete agreement to “not more than fifteen miles from the primary site where such physician practices” is unrealistic given our state’s small size. When a physician decides to leave a practice and open up their own practice in the same town, which occurred in Enfield and New Britain last year, our two HHCMG offices almost had to close.

Choosing where you want to practice is an enormous commitment that’s almost like choosing a life partner, one that should be taken seriously and be viewed as an opportunity to be part of a team.

Making physician non-compete agreements a part of public policy, which is the intent of this bill, fails to recognize the business realities of recruiting doctors to Connecticut. Physician recruitment has always been difficult in this state due to our high cost of living and the difficult malpractice environment.

I urge you to reject section 1 of the bill before you. Thank you for your time.