

Connecticut College of Emergency Physicians

Support for SB 244, An Act Concerning the Reporting of Injuries Resulting from the Discharge of a Firearm and Stab Wounds

Judiciary Committee
March 2, 2015

The Connecticut College of Emergency Physicians (CCEP) supports SB 244, an Act Concerning the Reporting of Injuries Resulting from the Discharge of a Firearm and Stab Wounds, with recommended amendments. As the primary providers of care for traumatic injuries we recommend the following additions/changes be made to the proposed language. We propose clarification as to definition of "stab wound" as proposed as follows.

- 1) Does stab wound refer to knife wounds only or does it include all penetrating wounds made by any instrument?
- 2) Is there a definition for size/depth of wound and whether it is a potentially life or limb threatening wound?
- 3) Nature of injury must be defined; is the wound self-inflicted or resultant from an altercation?
- 4) Is the wound accidental or intentional?

We feel that these definitions must be included in any proposed legislative language as failure to define these terms would lead to the requirement to report an enormous number of injuries. Under the strict language proposed police notification would be required for accidental household injuries, minor wounds and wounds incurred related to mental health issues. While the intent of this bill is obviously to provide protection for reporters of violent injuries, for which we are appreciative, and improve the notification of law enforcement authorities, strict definitions must be offered as "stab wound" is a broad category of injury.

As always, CCEP stands committed to providing the highest quality of health care to our citizens and to providing support and advice to the legislature.

Respectfully submitted,

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Connecticut College of Emergency Physicians