



Connecticut State Society of Anesthesiologists
127 Washington Avenue
North Haven, CT 06473

March 6, 2016

The Honorable Matthew Ritter,
House Chair
The Honorable Terry Gerratana
Senate Chair
The Honorable Prasad Srinivasan
House Ranking Member
The Honorable Joe Markley
Senate Ranking Member
Public Health Committee
Connecticut General Assembly
Legislative Office Building, Room 3000
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Testimony of Dr. Viji Kurup, President, Connecticut State Society of Anesthesiologists in Support of House Bill 5538, “An Act Concerning the Scope of Practice of Anesthesiologists.”

Dear Representative Ritter, Senator Gerratana, Representative Srinivasan and Senator Markley:

My name is Viji Kurup, I am a board certified Anesthesiologist at Yale New Haven Hospital and the current President of the Connecticut State Society of Anesthesiologists (CSSA). I am writing to urge your support to House Bill 5538, “An Act Concerning the Scope of Practice of Anesthesiologists.”

Over the past century, physician anesthesiologists have advanced patient safety through innovative research, science and technology advancements. Whether in the operating room, procedure room, intensive care unit or pain clinic, physician anesthesiologists are committed to delivering the safest medical care that every patient deserves before, during and after surgery or procedures that require anesthesia.

When it was brought to our attention, we were surprised that anesthesiologists were not allowed to administer anesthesia in a dental setting. Even though anesthesia is safer than ever, the administration of anesthesia is a complex and technically demanding medical procedure. It requires a physician who has the extensive medical education (up to 14 years) and clinical training (12,000-16,000 hours) to evaluate a patient’s medical condition, recommend an appropriate anesthesia plan, diagnose and treat problems that might surface during a procedure, and make critical, split-second decisions that can save the patient’s life. Anesthesiologists are well suited to administer anesthesia in a dental setting.

The CSSA is a professional association of physicians engaged in the practice of anesthesiology in the State of Connecticut. The Society's mission is to raise and maintain the standards of the specialty of anesthesiology and to make available to more people the benefits of the services of qualified anesthesiologists.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 5538. We urge the Committee to pass the legislation and allow an anesthesiologist to administer anesthesia in a dental setting, maintaining a high standard of patient care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Kurup', with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

Dr. Viji Kurup
President