



CONNECTICUT SOCIETY FOR RESPIRATORY CARE

Statement of the Connecticut Society for Respiratory Care
In Support of Senate Bill 70
February 16, 2016

Sen. Gerratana, Rep. Ritter, Senator Markley, Representative Srinivasan and Members of the committee:

My name is Connie C. Dills, MBA, RRT, RPFT. I am the Respiratory Practice Manager at the Hospital for Special Care in New Britain and also serve as President of the Connecticut Society for Respiratory Care. Our members support Senate Bill 70, *An Act Concerning Telehealth Providers*.

Respiratory Care Therapists are licensed in Connecticut as allied health professionals who are educated, trained and competency- tested in all aspects of pulmonary medicine.

Senate Bill 70 will add Respiratory Care Practitioners to the list of professions who can participate in Telehealth. We appreciate your support of this addition.

This legislation builds on Public Act 15-88, which you drafted and passed last year. Telehealth is becoming a more widely utilized method of delivering health care services, and allows practitioners to easily communicate with patients at their homes.

We have utilized Telehealth in the Medicare program to work with our patients and have found it invaluable. Patients can see us, and we can see them, over the internet connection. It has allowed us to reduce the symptoms and triggers of their chronic lung disease that can lead to reduce acute care interventions.

In summary, we commend you for moving the Telehealth concept forward in Connecticut and appreciate your recognition of the role Respiratory Care Therapists can play within it.