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**Testimony in Support of  
SB 543 An Act Concerning Insurance Coverage For Inpatient Substance Abuse Treatment Programs**

**HB 5140 An Act Concerning Reimbursements to Health Care Providers For Covered Services Provided For the Treatment Of A Substance Use Disorder**

**HB 5441 An Act Requiring Health Insurance Coverage For Long-Term Addiction Treatment**

**Insurance and Real Estate Committee  
February 7, 2017**

Senators Kelly and Larson, Representative Scanlon and members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee, on behalf of the physicians and physician-in-training members of Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS) and physician members of the undersigned organizations, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of **SB 543 An Act Concerning Insurance Coverage For Inpatient Substance Abuse Treatment Programs, HB 5140 An Act Concerning Reimbursements to Health Care Providers For Covered Services Provided For the Treatment Of A Substance Use Disorder, HB 5441 An Act Requiring Health Insurance Coverage For Long-Term Addiction Treatment.** CSMS supports the intent of these proposed bills.

We have long advocated for parity in coverage for all diseases, including mental health, behavioral health, and alcohol and substance abuse. For too long, patients suffering from these diseases have also suffered from the stigma associated with their conditions. Furthermore, appropriate coverage is often simply not available to treat patients suffering from addiction, , and more attention and funding needs to be allocated to patients suffering from addiction, one of the biggest public health crises we face today.

The proposed legislation before you today takes steps in the right direction by requiring coverage for certain long-term substance abuse treatment and guarantees reimbursement for those providing treatment for substance abuse and related disorders.

We appreciate the efforts behind these bills. As we all know, appropriate insurance coverage is only a small portion of what needs to be done to address the disease of addiction and its public health, personnel, family and societal impact. We look forward to continued collaboration with this committee and others to address this issue.

Please support these critical pieces of legislation.

CT Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery Society  
CT ENT Society  
CT Society of Eye Physicians  
CT Urology Society