

Dr. Stephen Lazaroff
Statement to the Public Health Committee
Senate Bill 306
March 16, 23018

Members of the Public Health Committee:

My name is Dr. Stephen Lazaroff, and I am a board qualified podiatric surgeon and recent graduate from the Yale Podiatric Surgery and Medicine Residency Program. During my training, I performed over 1,000 foot and ankle procedures. After completing residency, I was required to submit almost 200 cases in order to obtain my basic and advanced ankle permits.

After spending countless hours to collect all the required operative reports, and spending my own money to submit the cases for review, I was rejected for the ankle permits. It was determined by the committee that even though I met the required quantity and diversity of cases necessary for receiving the permits, I didn't meet the criteria for the basic ankle permit due to a caveat. As a result, it was determined that I wasn't eligible to obtain the advance ankle permit even though I completed the required number of cases.

This rejection was due to a stipulation in the ankle permit law that requires an additional number of cases to be submitted outside of residency (these rules are never clearly defined in the law). Not only is the ankle law poorly defined and confusing, but the process is slow and without updates. I had to continuously call to see if my paperwork was even received when I had not heard anything after six weeks of submission. I had multiple colleagues that underwent the same frustrating process, and all were rejected for the same reason.

Overall, the current Connecticut ankle permit laws are confusing, slow, time consuming, and costly. I am extremely frustrated about this process, and feel personally prejudiced against based solely on my degree and not my merit. This law is surely not in the best interest of medical progression in this state, and purposefully holds back highly trained, skilled, and enthusiastic podiatric foot and ankle surgeons.

I believe the process will be improved if the processing of these ankle surgery permits is done by the Podiatric Board of Examiners. For this reason, I support Senate Bill 306. Thank you.

Dr. Stephen Lazaroff