



127 Washington Avenue, East Building, 3rd Floor, North Haven, CT 06473
Phone (203) 865-0587 Fax (203) 865-4997 www.csms.org

Connecticut State Medical Society
Testimony on
House Bill 5547 An Act Requiring Physicians To Educate Their Patients
Regarding The National Marrow Donor Program
Presented to the Public Health Committee
February 25, 2019

Senator Abrams, Representative Steinberg, and members of the Public Health Committee, on behalf of the physicians and physicians in training of the Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS) thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony to you today on **House Bill 5547 An Act Requiring Physicians To Educate Their Patients Regarding The National Marrow Donor Program.**

CSMS appreciates the importance of the National Marrow Donor Program and supports initiatives in increase donations of life saving marrow through the program. However, we raise concern and *opposition* to the language as drafted as it adds another time-consuming mandate to physicians who are already over-burdened by government and payer mandates. The effect of these burdens limits the time physicians are available to patients to address their actual healthcare needs while maintaining access to their services for all their patients.

Rather than placing yet another mandate on physicians (many of whom are aware of but not knowledgeable of the program), we suggest as a first step that the Department of Public Health work with the National Program to develop and disseminate appropriate educational materials to physicians and other health care providers.

We look forward to working the Committee and others as this bill progresses.