



**Connecticut State Medical Society Testimony in opposition House Bill 5442
An Act Adding Chronic Pain as a Debilitating Condition for the Palliative
Use of Marijuana by a Qualifying Patient
Public Health Committee
February 11, 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) and the Connecticut Pain Society (CPS), please accept this testimony in opposition to **House Bill 5442 An Act Adding Chronic Pain as a Debilitating Condition for the Palliative Use of Marijuana by a Qualifying Patient.**

In 2012 the General Assembly passed Public Act 12-55 An Act Concerning the Palliative Use of Marijuana establishing a comprehensive program for the use of medical cannabis. Several debilitating conditions were included in the Public Act qualifying medical marijuana for their use. The act also established a Medical Board of Physicians whose duties include recommending to the Commissioner of the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) **conditions to be added to the list of conditions that qualify for the palliative use of marijuana.** The Board has, in fact, recommended several additions and continues to be active in vetting conditions deemed appropriate for the palliative use of medical cannabis. All have been approved by the Commissioner and ultimately accepted by the General Assembly's Regulations Review committee through the appropriate process.

The General Assembly went through great lengths and debate developing a comprehensive medical marijuana program. House Bill 5442 circumvents the process put in place through Public Act 12-55 and basically renders one of the most critical aspects of the legislation obsolete. The decision to add chronic pain to the list of qualifying debilitating condition eligible for the use of medical marijuana should be made by the knowledgeable medical professions tasked with this responsibility.

Please oppose House Bill 5442.