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SUBMITTED TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Monday, February 11, 2019

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AAST Governor

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SB 46, An Act Prohibiting Hospitals From Charging Fees For Trauma Activation

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Philip Corvo, MD, MA, FACS
Kathleen LaVorgna, MD, FACS

Thank you for this opportunity to provide input concerning SB 46, An Act Prohibiting Hospitals From Charging Fees For Trauma Activation. On behalf of the members of our Chapter, the Quality Collaborative and the State Medical Society, the leadership, physicians and healthcare providers of the Western Connecticut Medical Group and as practicing surgeons, we are opposed to SB 46.

COUNCILORS

Term Ending 2019

Kevin Dwyer, MD, FACS
Shea Gregg, MD, FACS

J. Alexander Palesty, MD, FACS
Brian Shames, MD, FACS
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There are only 12 designated trauma centers in the state of Connecticut that treat all injured patients, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, regardless of their ability to pay. On a yearly basis, trauma teams led by Connecticut physicians and surgeons treat thousands of patients with severe and life threatening injuries.

Term Ending 2020

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CTASMS Liaison

We are writing to you today to urge your opposition to SB 46, legislation that would prohibit hospitals from charging fees for trauma activation. Our state's trauma system provides critical services for the care of the injured patient when those services are needed, using evidence-based criteria to call a trauma activation. SB 46 would have a significant impact on the provision of those services and make it more difficult to get the correct resources to the patient's bedside in order to reduce unnecessary death.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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The trauma system in our state performs a critical function – providing the right level of care to an injured patient at the time that care is needed most. The system makes sure that a full range of highly-skilled emergency healthcare providers is available 24 hours a day, ready to care for the most badly-injured patients. The trauma activation fee helps provide the resources required to make sure our trauma system has the correct healthcare providers, facilities, and equipment to save lives.

www.ctacs.org
CTACS_PA



When the Trauma Alert Program in Connecticut started twenty years ago, we didn't fully appreciate the impact that this program would have on the lives of those patients that rolled their car on a patch of ice on date night, those awakening to find themselves trapped in a fire while warming their apartment with a space heater, our victims of penetrating trauma from knife and gun wounds, or our farmers and laborers who suffer from on the job traumatic injuries.

Over twenty years later countless lives have been saved. So many Connecticut families have benefitted from not losing a spouse, a parent, a loved one a breadwinner. We have seen deaths, complications, suffering, greatly reduced which benefits all of us.

As organizations and surgeons focused on the continuous improvement of the quality of care provided to Connecticut patients and for the sake of all those who utilize the comprehensive medical services of our trauma system, please vote "No" on SB 46.