



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 5210 An Act Mandating Insurance Coverage of Essential Health Benefits And Expanding Mandated Health Benefits For Women Children and Adolescents
Insurance and Real Estate Committee
March 1, 2018**

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 the organizations listed above, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of **House Bill 5210 An Act Mandating Insurance Coverage of Essential Health Benefits And Expanding Mandated Health Benefits For Women Children and Adolescents.**

When passed and signed into law in 2009, the Patient Protection and Accountable Care Act (ACA) put in place a series of rational and pragmatic services mandated to be included in all insurance policies offered individually, through group coverage, and through both the Federal and State Established Health Insurance Exchange Marketplaces. These mostly preventive and medically necessary services are known as “Essential Health Benefits.” This coverage dramatically increased the amount of preventive services available and provided to patients, moving forward the goal of assisting patients in obtaining and maintaining optimal health, as well as potentially reducing costs to the healthcare system for patient care, including those with chronic conditions.

Although patients have come to depend on the Essential Health Benefits, actions taken by the Federal government last year, now allow policies to be delivered which do not include these necessary provisions. House Bill 5210, rightfully extends coverage in state statute for services on which our patients have come to depend. Without a comprehensive review regarding the impact of each provision independently, these coverages should be maintained.

In addition, House Bill 5210 would provide coverage for children in accordance with the most recent edition of the American Academy of Pediatrics “Bright Futures: Guidelines for Health Supervision of Infants, Children, and Adolescents” as well as codifying certain coverages for women’s health services. We have stated prior our position that anything a physician believes is medically necessary should be covered for patient care, but we also support these provisions as necessary services in the best interest of women and children. Please support HB 5210.