

March 16, 2018

The Honorable Terry Gerratana
Co-Chair
Public Health Committee
Connecticut General Assembly
Legislative Office Building, Room 3002
Hartford, CT 06106

The Honorable Heather Somers
Co-Chair
Public Health Committee
Connecticut General Assembly
Legislative Office Building, Room 3002
Hartford, CT 06106

The Honorable Jonathan Steinberg
Co-Chair
Public Health Committee
Connecticut General Assembly
Legislative Office Building, Room 3002
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Opposition to Connecticut Senate Bill 300

Dear Co-Chairs Gerratana, Somers, and Steinberg:

On behalf of the American Medical Association and our physician and medical student members, I write in **opposition to Senate Bill (S.B.) 300**. This bill would inappropriately remove the current requirement that Physician Assistants practice pursuant to physician supervision.

Physician-led, team-based health care ensures that patients receive the most patient-centered, highest quality care possible. All professions in a health care team bring with them great strengths and unique perspectives that can be utilized to provide the safest, best possible care to patients. Physician Assistants are an integral part of these teams.

I understand that a few short years ago, Connecticut revised its statutes to better allow Physician Assistants to practice to the fullest extent of their training and capabilities, while maintaining the important supervisory structure through which to assure that high quality care is provided to every patient. S.B. 300 would undermine that structure, with no associated changes to the education and training of Physician Assistants that could potentially justify the proposal.

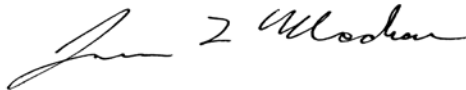
We further understand that this proposal has been submitted to the Connecticut Department of Public Health's (the Department) Scope of Practice Review process, and the Department has

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determined on multiple occasions that it is not appropriate for review. The AMA strongly supports scope of practice review processes like Connecticut's as a way to provide objective review of proposed changes to the scope of practice of non-physician practitioners and ensure that the changes contribute the improvement of the overall health of the state's citizens. We thus encourage the legislature to act consistently with the Department's determinations and reject S.B. 300.

Physician-led, team-based health care is one step in ensuring that patients receive the most patient-centered, highest quality care possible. All professions in a health care team bring with them great strengths and unique perspectives that can be utilized when looking at how to provide the best possible care to patients. With this spirit of teamwork in mind, we urge you to **oppose S.B. 300**. If you have any questions, please contact Kristin Schleiter, JD, Senior Legislative Attorney, Advocacy Resource Center, at kristin.schleiter@ama-assn.org or (312) 464-4783.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James L. Madara".

James L. Madara, MD

cc: Connecticut State Medical Society