

Public Health Committee
Public Hearing – March 29, 2021
HB 6666- AAC The Department of Public Health’s Recommendations Regarding Various
Revisions To The Public Health Statutes-
Sections 67 & 68
State of Connecticut Stroke Advisory Council

We, the members of the State of CT Stroke Advisory Council (SOC SAC) thank you for the opportunity to share with you our collective position on HB6666. While we are in strong favor of Section 67, and thank you for its inclusion, we request that section 68, as currently written, be withdrawn. The content and language does not reflect our original proposal for the implementation of a state stroke registry.

We collectively agree that a state stroke registry would benefit the residents of CT as a key strategy for enhancing stroke care across the state to improve both health outcomes and quality of life for stroke survivors and their families. As such SOC SAC is advocating for the establishment of a centralized, statewide stroke registry to monitor statewide trends in recovery care and to explore potential disparities and inequities in the delivery of stroke care. Data aggregation and analysis will lead to implementing practice strategies for ensuring that all Connecticut citizens are afforded evidence-based standards of acute and recovery stroke care. This initiative is the logical, next phase of work building on prior successful 2017 Stroke Task Force efforts and the legislative efforts which led to the passage of the House Bill 7222 (sections 40 & 41) which at that time, advocated for the creation of a continuous quality improvement program utilizing a proposed state-wide stroke registry.

We invite the leadership of this committee to encourage all interested parties to sit down to discuss this important issue further, and to hopefully come to a consensus on language that could either be submitted during this session, or at a subsequent session. We would welcome such an opportunity to be part of this process as a valuable voice in those conversations.

About SOC SAC

The State of CT Stroke Advisory Council (a.k.a. SOC SAC) was established in 2018 with a mission to ensure that all Connecticut citizens receive standardized, timely and appropriate stroke prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation through the provision of education, evidence-based recommendations, and policy development. Volunteer members of SOC SAC represent hospitals in CT that care for stroke patients including hospitals that have sought stroke center certification.

Sincerely,

Dawn Beland, Stroke Coordinator, Hartford Healthcare

Karin Nyström, Stroke Program Manager, Yale New Haven Hospital

Mark Alberts, Physician-in-Chief, Hartford Healthcare Neurosciences Institute

Joseph Schindler, Medical Director, Comprehensive Stroke Center, Yale New Haven Hospital

Amre Nouh, Medical Director Comprehensive Stroke Center, Hartford Healthcare

Kristen Hickey, Stroke Coordinator, Central Region, Hartford Healthcare

Charles Wira, Associate Professor Department of Emergency Medicine, Yale New Haven Hospital

Anna Coppola, Stroke Coordinator, Yale New Haven Hospital

Von Jessee, Manager-Quality Improvement, American Heart Association