

Should physicians be taxed to pay for Connecticut's uninsured?

You are our friends, our neighbors—and most importantly, our patients. We, the physicians of Connecticut, want to provide the best medical care for you and your family.

We applaud lawmakers for the many thoughtful proposals that address prevention, wellness, comprehensive access to medical care, and access to information from HMOs so that you can make more informed decisions about your own and your family's health care choices.

But we are compelled to stand up and speak out against proposals that will weaken the quality of care you and your family expect of us.

Wellness tax: In the name of expanding coverage, some lawmakers want to tax doctors for making or keeping you healthy. Insurance companies aren't going to pay it. It's against the law to charge Medicare and Medicaid patients for it. The unjust fact is that the additional costs can only be passed on to patients without health insurance—and physicians. A "wellness tax" will have unintended consequences—like limiting patients' access to cutting-edge cancer treatment. Is that what you want for your loved ones?

Preventing doctors from covering costs:

Connecticut physicians are paid dimes on the dollar to treat Medicaid patients. That's why it's so hard for low-income patients to find a doctor. Lawmakers promise to improve physician reimbursement, but buried in the fine print, they put strict limits on what doctors can get paid, regardless of the actual costs. The results would be dire: earlier retirements and even more difficulty attracting young physicians to our state.

Cosmetic surgery tax: We believe a selective sales tax that's aimed mostly at women—and where patient confidentiality is endangered—is a bad idea. Tax officials are in the business of collecting money—not making medical decisions or handling patient records to decide what is taxable. A doctor and patient together are best suited to decide if surgery is important to a patient's overall health.

The Connecticut State Medical Society and our undersigned state and national physician partners look forward to working with lawmakers to find the solutions that are right for Connecticut—solutions that allow us to open our doors wide to those we have sworn an oath to care for.

Contact us to let us know you care about reform that helps physicians provide quality medical care to all Connecticut residents at [*patients4care@csms.org*](mailto:patients4care@csms.org)

Physicians Caring for Connecticut

Connecticut State Medical Society
Fairfield County Medical Association
Hartford County Medical Association
Litchfield County Medical Association
Middlesex County Medical Association
New Haven County Medical Association
New London County Medical Association
Tolland County Medical Association
Windham County Medical Association
American Society of Plastic Surgeons
Connecticut Academy of Family Physicians
Connecticut American College of Physicians
Connecticut Allergy Society
Connecticut Chapter of American College
of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

Connecticut Chapter of American College
of Surgeons Professional Assoc., Inc.
Connecticut College of Emergency Physicians
Connecticut Dermatology and
Dermatologic Surgery Society
Connecticut Ear, Nose and Throat Society
Connecticut Geriatric Society
Connecticut Oncology Association
Connecticut Orthopedic Society
Connecticut Neurosurgical Society
Connecticut Psychiatric Society
Connecticut Society of Eye Physicians
Connecticut Society of Plastic and
Reconstructive Surgeons
Connecticut State Society of Anesthesiologists
Radiological Society of Connecticut