



MASSACHUSETTS ACADEMY OF DERMATOLOGY

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Testimony of Martin Cohn, Associate Director Joint Committee on Public Health July 21, 2009

I am here today on behalf of the Massachusetts Academy of Dermatology, in opposition to S. 836, an act relative to medical spas, as it is currently written, that is currently before the Joint Committee on Public Health.

The Massachusetts Academy of Dermatology is a professional association of close to 300 Massachusetts practicing dermatologists.

We believe that the legislation as written today allows unwarranted scope of practice expansions for physician extenders and non-medical personnel to perform cosmetic medical procedures.

A recent study found that in examining 123 complications that were the result of a non-physician performing a laser procedure, the most common cause of complications was the use of a device for an improper indication and the next most common cause was overutilization of a device for an indication for which an alternative therapy was superior. These two problems accounted for 65 percent of the total complications.

We have discussed this bill with the American Academy of Dermatology and the American Society for Dermatologic Surgery Association. I am submitting their analysis of S. 836.

Included in their analysis are recommendations that we believe will insure not only good patient care but also patient safety.

Please note, that I am also submitting a letter from Dr. Jeffrey Dover, a dermatologic surgeon and a member of the Massachusetts Medical Spa Task Force who would like to voice his concerns about the need for patient safety lacking in this bill.

We welcome the opportunity to work with members of the Joint Committee on Public Health to protect the citizens of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts from adverse events resulting from cosmetic medical procedures

We would like to take this opportunity to applaud Senator Menard and the dedicated members of the Massachusetts Medical Spa Task Force who toiled for two years in tackling the important issue of med spa regulation.