



Statement of Thomas Farquhar, M.D.
Radiological Society of Connecticut
Insurance and Real Estate Committee
July 21, 2020

Senator Lesser, Representative Scanlon, Senator Kelly, Representative Pavalock-D'Amato and members of the committee:

My name is Thomas Farquhar, MD. I am a medical doctor practicing in the field of radiology, and serve as legislative chair of the Radiological Society of Connecticut. I would like to offer comments on behalf of our members today in regard to LCO 3614, An Act Concerning Telehealth.

A number of my colleagues participate in telehealth. We have found this to be an effective and convenient way of communicating with patients who are not able to attend an in-person appointment. This became even more important when the pandemic hit with many medical practices closing or operating at reduced levels for emergency care only.

An Act Concerning Telehealth essentially takes the telehealth program as changed by Governor Lamont through Executive Orders 7G, 7DD, 7FF, and extends this structure through June 30, 2021. Among the changes the Governor authorized was the use of audio-only telehealth (telephone). This has enabled additional physicians to be involved in consulting patients remotely.

The Radiological Society of Connecticut supports this legislation and appreciates that our members are authorized providers of this service through next June. We look forward to additional discussions on making permanent enhancements and changes to the current telehealth law (Section 19a-906) in the 2021 Legislative Session.

Thank you.