



## Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants

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### CONNECTICUT ACADEMY OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS REGARDING

**SB 861, An Act Concerning The Modernization Of Certain Medical Forms  
and  
SB 857, An Act Concerning The Use Of Step Therapy For, And Off-Label  
Prescribing Of Prescription Drugs**

**PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE  
MARCH 20, 2013**

Chairwomen Gerratana and Johnson and Members of the Public Health Committee:

The Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants (ConnAPA) wishes to endorse SB 861, an Act Concerning the Modernization of Certain Medical Forms, as well as SB 857 an Act Concerning the use of Step Therapy for, and Off-Label Prescribing of Prescription Drugs, but request that physician assistants be included in this bill.

ConnAPA is the sole organization representing the over 1900 physician assistants (PAs) licensed in Connecticut. PAs provide health care to Connecticut residents in all settings and in all medical and surgical specialties, as delegated by our supervising physicians. Connecticut PAs prescribe and administer drugs as part of our every day practice.

Proposed SB 861 intends to create uniform health care prior authorization forms to streamline the process health care providers must follow in requesting insurance coverage of a drug that is the best treatment for a patient, but is not a formulary medication. This process should be of benefit to patients, medical practices, and even the insurers who have to administer these programs.

Proposed SB 857 intends to reduce the instances when an insurer can mandate patients purchase over the counter medicines, or use substituted prescription brand, or use non-FDA approved medication before covering the original prescription. Unfortunately, the wording in this bill only applies to physicians. This bill should, naturally apply to PAs prescribing as well, and ConnAPA therefor requests that PAs be included in this bills language.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments, and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any question regarding PAs interest in these bills.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Drew Morten", written over a horizontal line.

Drew Morten, MPH, PA-C  
Legislative Committee Chair