



377 Research Parkway, Suite 2-D
Meriden, CT 06450-7160
203-238-1207

**TESTIMONY RE: Raised Bill No. 972: AN ACT CONCERNING CHILDREN AND
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

Select Committee on Children

March 5, 2013

Good day Senator Bartolomeo and Representative Urban and esteemed members of the Select Committee on Children.

Thank-you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Connecticut Nurses' Association (CNA) related to Children's Mental Health. I am Mary Jane Williams Ph.D., RN current chairperson of Government Relations Committee for the Connecticut Nurses Association and professor emeritus from Central Connecticut State University. I speak in support of the concepts presented in Raised Bill No 972: An Act Concerning Children and Behavioral Health.

I have practiced Nursing in this state for 49 years. I have watched the resources decline in relation to all Behavioral Health Services. I believe the lack of providers, sites and services for Behavioral Health of Children is essential to the healthy growth and development of the children in this State, who are our future.

Therefore I believe it is essential that we support the conduct of a study to evaluate current behavioral health support systems relative to children. It is essential that we as citizens of this state make available resources and services that support the healthy

growth and development of our most important resource our children. In order to provide resources we must first ascertain what is available and its effectiveness. I have attached several position statements from the National Association of School Nurses, "Related to the Mental Health of Children".

Thank you for your time. We strongly urge the committee to vote favorably to support **Raised Bill No. 972: AN ACT CONCERNING CHILDREN AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH.**

Thank you

Mary Jane M. Williams PhD., RN