

# Connecticut Association of Nurse Anesthetists

Written Testimony of  
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Senate Bill No. 459  
An Act Concerning Medical Assistants

March 19, 2014

Connecticut General Assembly's Public Health Committee

Good day Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson, Senator Welch, Representative Srinivasan and members of the Public Health Committee. Thank you for this opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 459 "An Act Concerning Medical Assistants." My name is Ann Bassett. I am a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) and a licensed Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN). In addition, I served on the Department of Public Health Committee Scope of Practice Review Committee for Medical Assistants. I am here today representing the Connecticut Association of Nurse Anesthetists (CANA).

This proposal sets specific requirements to allow Medical Assistants to administer certain medications under the medical direction of a licensed physician.

The Connecticut Association of Nurse Anesthetists as part of the scope of practice review committee focused on assessing any public health and safety risks associated with the Medical Assistant's request for a change in their scope of practice.

As currently drafted, the Connecticut Association of Nurse Anesthetists support Senate Bill 459. As drafted this legislation reflects the scope review committee discussions. Specifically, CANA sought to ensure that Medical Assistants would be prohibited from administering anesthetic agents as well as Schedule I, II and III controlled substances as well as medications through intravenous injections. The legislation also accurately reflects the scope review discussion as it relates to practice locations; prohibiting the Medical Assistants from administration of medication in a inpatient clinic, hospital emergency department, ambulatory surgical center or during routine surgical procedures in a outpatient clinic or physicians office.

Finally, during the scope review process and noted in the final report there is currently no mandatory education certification requirements for medical assistants in Connecticut. CANA would support mandatory certification, which would ensure that medical assistants who administer medication have met the same minimum qualifications. This translates to safe practice and improved safety for the residents of Connecticut.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to address the committee. I would be glad to answer any questions at this time.

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