



**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 459 An Act Concerning Medical Assistants.
Public Health Committee
March 19, 2014**

Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson and members of the Public Health Committee, on behalf of the physicians and physicians in training of the Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS) thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony to you today on Senate Bill 459 An Act Concerning Medical Assistants. The language before you today is by and large the product of the comprehensive process to review potential changes to scopes of practice established under Public Act 11-209. In 2012, CSMS actively participated in the process, along with representatives from several organizations with an interest in the issue. A final report on the process was submitted to this committee on February 1, 2013.

Senate Bill 459 would provide physicians the ability to delegate the administration of certain forms of medication to medical assistants who are appropriately trained and have been credentialed by a nationally accredited organization. The language establishes limitations and conditions under which such delegation can occur and does not change the level of supervision required for medical assistants. Currently, direct supervision of medical assistants is required in which the physician is physician present at the site in which the services are being provided.

At a time when we are collectively working to identify ways to increase access to quality healthcare to a rapidly increasing population of people seeking services, Senate Bill 459 would allow physician practices to provide services to a greater number of patients. Many services could be provided in a shorter time period while maintaining the same high standards for care quality.

Having been an integral entity in the discussions and efforts to develop this proposal, we ask that two issues be addressed to ensure that the strongest and most appropriate legislation is drafted to make certain that the appropriate accrediting bodies are included and appropriate training opportunities exist for medical assistants to meet the requirements of the bill.

First, while the language appropriately includes the Certified Medical Assistant credential (CMA) of the American Association of Medical Assistants (AAMA), the Registered Medical Assistant credential (RMA) of the American Medical Technologists (AMT) must be included. Many medical assistants in Connecticut currently hold the RMA and exclusion would prevent all appropriately trained medical assistants from the benefits of the legislation.

Second, the bill states in Section 1(b)(1) that externships required within the training of a medical assistant be fulfilled in an outpatient clinic. However, many students obtain their externship training directly from physician office. Therefore, we request that physician offices be added to the appropriate locations to fulfill externship requirements.

Please support Senate Bill 459 with the appropriate amendments.