



Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants

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CONNECTICUT ACADEMY OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

Testimony on Raised Bill 5537, “An Act Concerning the DPH Recommendations Regarding Various Revisions to the Public Health Statutes”

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

MARCH 14, 2014

Rep. Johnson, Sen. Gerratana, and members of the Public Health Committee,

The Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants, ConnAPA, is the sole organization representing the interests of the nearly 2000 practicing physician assistants in our state. I am Dan Mussen, a member of our legislative committee. Physician Assistants are of course, key providers of primary care. Our profession is a leader in team based, high quality, cost effective delivery of health and preventative medical care.

We would like to draw your attention to one part of 5537, the DPH revisions bill, in which PAs should be included. In section 43 (lines 1926 and 1927), medical providers are allowed to provide a certificate of exemption from meningitis vaccine for college students. This is of course within the current scope of practice for PAs, and PAs should therefore be added as one of the health care providers.

With primary care provider shortages and the increase in the need for health care accompanying the Affordable Care Act, our health care system is being strained. Within the physician lead health care team, PAs should be allowed to practice to the full extent of their education and training. The inclusion of PAs in this bill is one small example of how legislation can help the health care team provide efficient, high quality care.

Sincerely,

Dan Mussen PA
Member, ConnAPA Legislative Committee