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**TESTIMONY RE: Senate Bill No. 16 AN ACT CONCERNING BENEFITS PAYABLE FOR ASSESSMENT TO DETERMINE DIAGNOSIS OF MENTAL AND NERVOUS CONDITIONS AND RELATED CONSULTATION**

Committee on Insurance and Real Estate

February 17, 2015

Good Afternoon Senator Crisco and Representative Megna and esteemed members of the Committee on Insurance and Real Estate.

Thank-you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Connecticut Nurses' Association (CNA) related to AN ACT CONCERNING BENEFITS PAYABLE FOR ASSESSMENT TO DETERMINE DIAGNOSIS OF MENTAL AND NERVOUS CONDITIONS AND RELATED CONSULTATION.

I am Mary Jane Williams Ph.D., RN current chairperson of Government Relations Committee for the Connecticut Nurses Association. I speak in support of the concepts raised in AN ACT CONCERNING BENEFITS PAYABLE FOR ASSESSMENT TO DETERMINE DIAGNOSIS OF MENTAL AND NERVOUS CONDITIONS AND RELATED CONSULTATION.

However, have one major concern about this current legislation related to the omission of **Psychiatric Mental Health Advance Practice Nurses as providers of care and "involved in the Assessment of individuals and follow up consultations related to the diagnosis of mental and nervous conditions and related consultation."** Omission of this valued group of providers was hopefully and oversight and will be corrected as the Psych-Mental APRN is a core member of the provider groups in the Mental Health and involved in assessment and consultation as described in this proposed legislation.

Thank you

Mary Jane M Williams PhD, RN  
Chair Government Relations  
Connecticut Nurses Association  
Professor Emeritus Central Connecticut State University