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TESTIMONY RE: **RAISED BILL NO. 6898 AN ACT CONCERNING THE MARKETING OF UNHEALTHY FOODS IN SCHOOLS**

CHILDRENS COMMITTEE

MARCH 3, 2015,

Good Morning, Senator Bartolomeo, Representative Urban and esteemed members of the Public Health Committee

Thank-you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Connecticut Nurses' Association (CNA) related to: **RAISED BILL NO. 6898 AN ACT CONCERNING THE MARKETING OF UNHEALTHY FOODS IN SCHOOLS.**

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.

It seems obvious how important it is to the health of school aged children that we not only provide a safe environment but that we maintain standards related to their healthy eating habits which were established in 2010 via the Hunger –Free Healthy Kids Act. “Nearly 32 million children eat lunch at school every day; more than 20 million of them are low-income children whose families are struggling to make ends meet and who receive free or reduced-price meals. School meals are crucial to these children, and the

proposed standards will go a long way to remedy nutritional shortfalls and help address the nation's obesity problem.

It is essential that educational systems provide consistent messages in an attempt to maintain a healthy food plan inclusive of snacks.

“The USDA recently published practical, science-based nutrition standards for snack foods and beverages sold to children at school during the school day. The standards, required by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, will allow schools to offer healthier snack foods to children, while limiting junk food. The health of today’s school environment continues to improve. Students across the country are now offered healthier school lunches with more fruits, vegetables and whole grains. The Smart Snacks in School standards will build on those healthy advancements and ensure that kids are only offered tasty and nutritious foods during the school day. Smart Snacks in School also support efforts by school food service staff, school administrators, teachers, parents and the school community, all working hard to instill healthy habits in students”. (Hartline-Grafton, Henchy, G, & Levin, M. FRAC)

I speak in strong support of: **RAISED BILL NO. 6898 AN ACT CONCERNING THE MARKETING OF UNHEALTHY FOODS IN SCHOOLS** it will present a consistent picture for the youth in our schools and will help to guide them in the decision making process.

I therefore urge you to support: **RAISED BILL NO. 6898 AN ACT CONCERNING THE MARKETING OF UNHEALTHY FOODS IN SCHOOLS**. Thank you for your attention to this proposed legislation and for your commitment to the Health of the public we all serve.

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