



377 Research Parkway 2D
Meriden, CT 06450
203-238-1207
FAX (203) 238-3437
www.ctnurses.org

**TESTIMONY RE: SB. NO. 246 An Act Defining and Establishing Standards For The
Practice of Telemedicine**

Public Health Committee
February 23, 2015

Good Day, Senator Gerrantana, Representative Ritter and members of the Public Health Committee.

Thank-you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Connecticut Nurses' Association (CNA), the professional organization for registered nurses in Connecticut, for **SB. NO. 246 An Act Defining and Establishing Standards For The Practice of Telemedicine**

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.

I speak in support of **SB. NO. 246 An Act Defining and Establishing Standards For The Practice of Telemedicine.**

"Telemedicine" refers to the use of electronic communication and information technologies to provide or support clinical care at a distance. More broadly speaking, the term "telehealth" is often used to refer to a diverse group of health-related activities, such as health professional's education, community health education,

public health, research, and administration of health services. According to the American Nurses Association the “Tenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, each state is empowered to establish laws to protect the citizens of the respective state.” “A component of this "public protection" mandate is the state responsibility for establishing standards for health care professionals who provide services for citizens of that state.”

However, the utilization of Telemedicine is evolving and has the potential to involve multiple licensed health providers, in multiple settings in multiple states. It is essential that Standards be established utilizing the standards of practice for each profession involved as well as adhering to State licensed scopes of practice and regulation. In addition to the aforementioned regulation attention to legal issues related to Interstate licensure need to be adhered to. This is an immense regulatory issue that requires input from the experts in each profession that will be involved in Telemedicine.

This Legislation is long overdue. But in order to develop an acceptable definition and standards we strongly support establishing and Advisory Council to develop the definition and standards taking into consideration the licensing and regulatory issues of each profession.

We thank you for the opportunity to present Testimony and ask you support **SB. NO. 246 An Act Defining and Establishing Standards For The Practice of Telemedicine.**

Mary Jane M Williams PhD., RN
Chair, Government Relations, Connecticut Nurses Association

Rxwilliams43@aol.com

860 997 6844