



Connecticut Association of Nurse Anesthetists

Written Testimony of
Ann Bassett MS, CRNA, APRN
President, Connecticut Association of Nurse Anesthetists

Senate Bill No. 981
An Act Concerning Medical Assistants

March 16, 2015
Connecticut General Assembly's Public Health Committee

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter, Senator Markley, Representative Srinivasan and members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Ann Bassett. I am a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) and a licensed Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN). In addition, I served on the Department of Public Health Scope of Practice Review Committee for Medical Assistants. I represent the Connecticut Association of Nurse Anesthetists (CANA). This is my written testimony on Senate Bill 981 "An Act Concerning Medical Assistants."

This proposed pilot program outlines specific requirements to allow Medical Assistants to administer certain medications under the direct order and supervision of a licensed healthcare provider.

The Connecticut Association of Nurse Anesthetists as part of the scope of practice review committee focused on assessing any public health and safety risks associated with the Medical Assistant's request for a change in their scope of practice.

As currently drafted, the Connecticut Association of Nurse Anesthetists support Senate Bill 981. As drafted this legislation reflects the scope review committee discussions. Specifically, CANA sought to ensure that Medical Assistants would be prohibited from administering anesthetic agents, all controlled substances, and medications through intravenous injections. The legislation also accurately reflects the scope review discussion as it relates to practice locations; prohibiting the Medical Assistants from administration of medication in an inpatient clinic, hospital emergency department, ambulatory surgical center or during routine surgical procedures in a outpatient clinic or physicians office.

Finally, during the scope review process and noted in the final report there is currently no mandatory education certification requirements for medical assistants in Connecticut. CANA would support mandatory certification, which would ensure that medical assistants who administer medication have met the same minimum qualifications. This translates to safe practice and improved safety for the residents of Connecticut.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to address the committee.