



# MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT



## Testimony on Senate Bill 981 An Act Concerning Medical Assistants

Public Health Committee

March 16, 2015

Good afternoon, Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and members of the Public Health Committee. On behalf of the members of the Fairfield and Hartford County Medical Associations, we thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on Senate Bill 981: An Act Concerning Medical Assistants.

Our organizations are in strong support of having clear guidelines and laws permitting the administration of injections and other medications by certified and fully trained medical assistants on the orders, and under the direct supervision, of a doctor or other licensed health care provider who is authorized to prescribe vaccines and other medications.

In a vast majority of states, medical assistants may perform basic clinical procedures under the direct supervision of a licensed medical practitioner and, in many cases, under a physician's assistant or nurse practitioner. The number of states that specifically address medical assisting has continued to grow in recent years. In New England, only Connecticut does not allow medical assistants to administer shots under the supervision of a licensed practitioner.

There is general recognition of the chronic shortage of nurses and primary care physicians in Connecticut and this bill would help to safely alleviate some of the clinical burden. While we recognize SB 981 would establish a three-year demonstration project in federally qualified health care facilities, we recommend expanding the venue where medical assistants may administer vaccines and other medications to include private medical practices.

We thank you for your consideration of our position.

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