

Testimony of

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AFT Connecticut Local 5049

In Opposition to HB 5448

An Act Requiring Health Care Providers to be Vaccinated against Influenza

Public Health Committee Hearing

March 4, 2015

Good Afternoon Senator Gerratana , Representative Ritter, and members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Jeanne Wehling and I am a staff nurse for the last 3 years at Lawrence and Memorial Hospital. Prior to that as an LPN at Hospital for Special Care for 5 years. I am Political Liaison of the L &M RN's.

Every employee at Lawrence and Memorial Hospital is required to either receive the influenza vaccine or fill out a declination form. If the employee chooses to decline, they are required to wear mask within 3 feet of any patient. There are health and religious reasons why making this mandatory would be problematic . Also, this year for example the vaccine only has a 23% rate of effectiveness.

We will continue to educate for the influenza vaccination, the use of masks when if declining of the vaccine, and also the use of masks when caring for patients that are symptomatic .

I ask that you not support HB 5448.

Thank you for your assistance.

Jeanne Wehling

Political Liaison, L & M Nurses

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