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TESTIMONY RE: **PROPOSED BILL NO. 5448 AN ACT REQUIRING HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS TO BE VACCINATED AGAINST INFLUENZA**

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

MARCH 4, 2015,

Good Day Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter 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: : **PROPOSED BILL NO. 5448 AN ACT REQUIRING HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS TO BE VACCINATED AGAINST INFLUENZA**

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.

The current Language does not address our concerns due to the current inadequacy of the proposed language. The bill lacks language and does not clarify types of health care providers (should include all health care providers who have contact with any individual during their daily work) and locations of their practice whether it is in a Hospital, Home Care, Long Term Care, Physician Practice, Schools, Community Health Centers Pharmaceutical Companies, Insurance Companies and in Industrial Centers , to name a few. In order to have effective legislation these enumerated issues must be addressed in a manner that considers the health of all.

The current language does not have any provisions for those choosing not to be vaccinated for religious or personal beliefs or who have had allergic reactions to the Flu Vaccine.

In order to have effective legislation these enumerated issues must be addressed in a manner that considers the health of all. Health care providers provide care in multiple settings each setting has a unique set of risk factors. Some health care providers are exposed to high risk patients others are not...In order to have effective legislation these enumerated issues must be addressed in a manner that considers the health of all.

Therefore I urge you to reconsider the language in the current **PROPOSED BILL NO. 5448 AN ACT REQUIRING HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS TO BE VACCINATED AGAINST INFLUENZA** and address the issues before legislating this mandate. It is our goal to protect the public, health care providers are part of the public we serve. In Connecticut we have 140,000 licensed providers of health care this proposed bill has many implications.

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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