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TESTIMONY RE: **PROPOSED BILL NO. 6287 AN ACT CONCERNING REPORTS OF  
IMPAIRED HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS**

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. 6287 AN ACT CONCERNING  
REPORTS OF IMPAIRED HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS.**

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 was a member of the group that spearheaded the collaborative effort between the  
Connecticut Medical Society, the Connecticut Nurses Association, the Connecticut  
Dental Society, the Connecticut Society of Veterinary Medicine and the Connecticut  
Association of Physician Assistants. The Connecticut Nurses Association is a founding  
member of HAVEN. I served as Vice President of the Board of Directors for Haven and  
have maintained a collegial relationship with The Executive Director since the inception  
of Haven in 2007.

I speak in strong support of: **PROPOSED BILL NO. 6287 AN ACT CONCERNING REPORTS OF IMPAIRED HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS.** Impairment of any type is an illness. The ill individual needs assessment and treatment. HAVEN provides the only privileged confidential program in the state of Connecticut. The role of “Haven” is to assess and follow the individual to assure that the recommended treatment plan is being followed and is effective. Most clients remain in the program and are monitored for 5 years. However, the program is only effective if the impaired individual is reported. Even though as professionals we have a moral ethical responsibility to report individuals who present with an issue, the reporting responsibility is often negated and the individual is terminated and moves onto another system. This non-reporting behavior is a disservice to the impaired individual, the next system of employment and the public at large.

Therefore, I support Attorney Maureen Dinnans’ Testimony and request for alteration in the proposed language. We speak in one voice concerning mandated reporting which is essential to protect the provider and to the health of the public.

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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