Testimony of

Caren B. Foisie, CMA (AAMA)

Submitted to the Public Health Committee

February 28, 2015

An Act Concerning Medical Assistants

Dear Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and members of the Public Health committee.

I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony concerning the raised bill #SB 981, establishing a pilot program allowing Medical Assistants to administer medications. I support the concept of this bill as written.

Certified Medical Assistants who have graduated from an accredited school are well trained to perform phlebotomy and to administer non-intravenous injections including vaccines. Requiring certification as a CMA (AAMA) or RMA(AMT)goes a long way towards assuring that only properly qualified MA's will administer these vaccines under the direct supervision of a physician.

CT is one of only two states in the USA where Medical Assistants are currently prohibited from administering any form of medication. In all other states MA's are either expressly or implicitly permitted under state medical practice laws to administer medications.

Allowing Medical Assistants to administer vaccines will benefit the State of CT because there will be more appropriately educated and tested allied health professionals who could administer vaccinations as directed by a physician. Additionally, it will allow the physician and nurses to see more patients and focus more on the assessment and clinical care. It will also bring back the patient to the physician in a timely fashion where the physician can attend to matters that only he or she is capable of facilitating.

Thank you for your consideration of our/my position. For additional information, contact me at mattgracie@comcast.net or (860) 906-1289.

Sincerely,

Caren B. Foisie, CMA (AAMA)