Submitted to the Public health Committee

Date 2/24/2015

SB#981, An Act Concerning Medial Assistants

I appreciate this opportunity to submit testimony concerning SB#981, act concerning Medical Assistants.

In the Scope of Practice Review Committee Report issued February 2013 by the CDPH they concluded that: a certified medical assistants are educated and trained to engage in medication administration under the direct supervision of a licensed physician. Accredited education and training programs that lead to certification as a medical assistant have been in place for many years in CT and other states and include coursework and clinical training in pharmacology and medication administration. The AAMA and AMT offer examination and certification programs that could be utilized in CT as the standard for medical assistants who are delegated the task of medication administration. Mandatory certification would ensure that all medical assistants who administer medication have met the same minimum qualifications.

Medical assistants are able to administer medications under the direct supervision of a physician in most other state Restrictions related to setting types of medication and route of administration vary from state to state. It is anticipated that allowing medical assistants to administer medication, for example routine vaccinations, will enable physicians and nursed who may be practicing with them to see more patients and focus on assessment and clinical care.....in reviewing and discussing all of the information provided, the majority of scope of practice review committee members agreed that the concerns that were identified regarding potential quality and safety risks associated with allowing licensed physicians to delegate medication administration to Certified Medical Assistants can be addressed through legislation.

Medical assistants who attend accredited MA education programs 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 toward assuring that only properly qualified MA's will administer vaccines.

Medical Assistants work under the direct supervision of physicians (MDs and Osteopaths). The delegating physician remains professionally and legally responsible for the action of his or her unlicensed medical assistant. The concerns expressed by organized nursing interests about medical assistants' assuming too much clinical responsibility are misplaced; the delegating provider is responsible for assuring that the MA has the appropriate training and skills for any clinical task performed, and remains responsible for the MA's activities.

Thank you for your consideration of my position on this bill.

Philip R. Raiford, M.D.

Putnam Medical Associates

Pro Health Physicians

330 Pomfret St

Putnam, Ct 06260