Testimony of

Jane M. O'Grady, RN

Submitted to the Public Health Committee

3/1/2015

An Act Concerning Medical Assistants

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

I, Jane O'Grady, 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 Medical Assistants 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 Medical Assistants are either expressly or implicitly permitted under state medical practice laws to administer medications.

Well trained Medical Assistants are an integral and vital part of the healthcare team. They are multi-skilled professionals who multitask all day; collecting data, advocating for patients and assisting providers give better patient care. Their scope of training gives them the ability to follow provider orders and administer medications and this is a function long denied them in CT. It is time to change this inequity. Allowing Medical Assistants to administer vaccines will benefit the State of CT because there will be more appropriately educated and certified allied health professionals who can administer vaccines, as directed by a physician. It will allow the physicians and nurses to see more patients and focus on the assessment and clinical care, which requires their higher levels of training.

Thank you for your consideration of my position. For additional information, contact:

Jane M. O'Grady MEd, RN, CMA, CPC

Practice Manager D. James McKay, MD
Associate Professor
Allied Health Programs Coordinator
Northwestern Connecticut Community College
Park Place East
Winsted, CT 06098
860-738-6393

jogrady@nwcc.edu