

Testimony of

Terri O'Connell, CMA

Submitted to the Public Health Committee

March 8, 2015

An Act Concerning Medical Assistants

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

Terri O'Connell, CMA appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony concerning the raised bill #SB 981, establishing a pilot program allowing Medical Assistants to administer medications. Terri O'Connell, CMA supports the concept of this bill as written. Although I currently work for a pharmaceutical company, I would consider returning to the Pediatric practice I left with the opportunity to receive better compensation if granted the right to administer childhood vaccines. Previously, I was able to perform all the duties required in a pediatric office sans the administration of vaccines. This required the practice to hire additional R.N. personnel for the task primarily. Medication administered via nebulizer used to treat acute asthma, are another example of a common service outside of the current jurisdiction for Certified Medical Assistants.

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. 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 (who knows them best).

Thank you for your consideration of our/my position. For additional information, contact Terri O'Connell, CMA at 203-470-3127.