



MEMORANDUM



Testimony on House Bill 5129 An Act Concerning The Administration of Vaccines By Pharmacists And Medical Assistants And The Listing Of Certified Medical Assistants

Public Health Committee

February 16, 2016

Good afternoon, Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and members of the Public Health Committee. On behalf of the members of the Fairfield and Hartford County Medical Associations, we thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of section two and in opposition to section one of House Bill 5129: An Act Concerning The Administration Of Vaccine By Pharmacists And Medical Assistants And The Listing Of Certified Medical Assistants.

Our organizations are in full support of having clear guidelines and laws permitting the administration of vaccines by certified and fully trained medical assistants on the orders, and under the direct supervision, of a doctor or other licensed health care provider who is authorized to prescribe vaccines and other medications. We oppose section one of the bill, which would allow the administration of vaccine by pharmacists to children. Pharmacists do not operate under the direct supervision, of a doctor or other licensed health care provider.

In a vast majority of states, medical assistants can perform basic clinical procedures under the direct supervision of a licensed medical practitioner and, in many cases, under a physician's assistant or nurse practitioner. The number of states that specifically address medical assisting has continued to grow in recent years. In New England, only Connecticut does not allow medical assistants to administer shots under the supervision of a licensed practitioner.

There is general recognition of the chronic shortage of nurses and primary care physicians in Connecticut and this bill would help to safely alleviate some of the clinical burden. Section two of this bill would allow properly trained and certified medical assistants to administer vaccines under the direct supervision of a medical doctor or other health care provider who is authorized to prescribe vaccine.

We thank you for your consideration of our position.

Fairfield County Medical Association

917 Bridgeport Avenue, Shelton, CT 06484

Tel: 203-513-2045 / Fax: 203-513-8036

Email: info@fcma.org / Website: www.fcma.org

Physicians Dedicated to a Healthier Fairfield County

Hartford County Medical Association

1290 Silas Dean Hwy, Suite 3C, Wethersfield, CT 06109

Tel: 203-699-2400 / Fax: 203-699-2412

Email: medserv@medservct.com / Website: www.hcma.org

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