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**Testimony: Raised Bill No 5460 An Act Concerning The
Administration of Glucagon in Schools**

March 2, 2016

Good Morning: Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and esteemed members of the Public Health Committee.

I am Mary Jane Williams Ph.D., RN current chairperson of Government Relations Committee for the Connecticut Nurses Association.

I want to thank-you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Connecticut Nurses' Association (CNA). I have strong concerns **regarding Raised Bill No 5460 An Act Concerning The Administration of Glucagon in Schools.**

I am concerned about this proposed legislation for multiple reasons, many of which have been repeatedly reported in previous testimony. However, for the record, I will reiterate my concerns. The administration of medication is a skill that is supported by knowledge related to the diagnosis and treatment plan and requires the administrator of the medication to assess the situation make the proper nursing diagnosis prior to implementing the intervention (giving the medication).

I have multiple concerns. First is the concern with the act of delegation

A. DELEGATION

1. The State Board of Nurse Examiners finds that Chapter 378, Section 20-101, of the General Statutes of Connecticut allows delegation of nursing functions to unlicensed personnel by the registered nurse, and when indicated, the licensed practical nurse working under the direction of a registered nurse.

" Authority to perform selected nursing tasks in selected situations is transferred to competent* unlicensed personnel. (Exhibit E-14, p. 6).

However, the registered nurse retains responsibility for the total nursing process and for its outcomes in all situations where delegation has occurred.

- Hereinafter "competent" is defined by the Board as follows: unlicensed assistive personnel are presumed to have baseline competency if they are certified as a Certified Nursing Assistant or Home Health Aide (Department of Public Health and Addiction Services Regulations Sections 19-13-D8t, 19-13-D66 to 19-13-D92) or hold another Board approved State certification, and if documentation of task specific competency, specific to the task being delegated, exists.
- **If the nurse delegates a task to an unlicensed personnel who does not hold such certification and competency validation, the nurse bears responsibility to verify that the person to whom the task is being delegated is competent to perform such task. (DPH)**

This declaratory ruling prohibits Registered Nurses from Delegating to individuals who are not certified as Competent or holds them accountable for all such administrations.

What is being proposed expands the individuals allowed to administer, many who lack preparation appropriate to the class of drugs and diagnosis.

Second Issue: Administration

The proposed legislation has the potential of being an administrative nightmare for school systems and school nurses. The School Nurse and related administrators will now be responsible for education all of these allied individuals initially and yearly thereafter. The School Systems, School Medical Advisor and the School Nurse will be held responsible for the ongoing education and supervision of these individuals.

Third Issue: Immunity Against Litigation

In Section a) 1 it is proposed that immunity shall not apply to acts or omission constituting gross, willful or wanton negligence. How will this and by whom will this be determined. Not only will Nurses have liability, School Systems and the Individual will have liability for untoward events.

There are multiple issues' and implications with this current proposal that need careful consideration. Initial Education, Continuing Education, legal responsibility of Unlicensed Administrator, Legal Responsibility of School Boards, Liability of Professional Nurses to name a few. I also strongly recommend that the issue of liability be addressed more globally and that the allied professionals who are volunteering to administer medications be educated in a formal setting, formally tested, and certified by individuals

other than the School Nurses in each school and held accountable for their role in the process of medication administration. This proposal makes an assumption that there is not a specific body of knowledge specific education related to this entire process. It also does not adequately address accountability and liability.

Managing allergies and anaphylaxis at school is complicated and multifaceted and is best accomplished through coordination of care within a multidisciplinary team (including but not limited to the student and his or her family, school nurse, teachers, school administrators, nutrition services, and bus drivers) (Carlisle et al., 2010; NASB, 2010). Research shows that schools and childcare settings with school nurses are more likely to provide immediate treatment (47% with a school nurse vs. 34% without) and have emergency care plans (62.3% with vs. 39.2% without) in place (Greenhawt, McMorris, & Furlough, 2008). Prompt treatment leads to an increase in positive outcomes (Young, Munoz-Furlong, & Sicherer, 2009). The school nurse is the key school professional to lead the school staff in the awareness, prevention and treatment of life-threatening allergic reactions keeping students safe at school and ready to learn.

There are multiple issues' and implications with this current proposal that need careful consideration. **The solution to the issue of Emergency Medication Administration is the availability of qualified School Nurses who have the Knowledge essential to the safe administration of the aforementioned medications.** We all want to protect and preserve the health of the public, however, we must utilize the appropriate provider to

keep children safe. **The Connecticut Nurses Association strives to protect the Practice of Nursing and the Health of the Public.**

Therefore we do not support this current proposed legislation **Raised Bill No 5460 An Act Concerning The Administration of Glucagon in Schools.**

Thank You

Mary Jane M Williams PhD., RN

Professor Emeritus, Central Connecticut State University

Chair, Government Relations Connecticut Nurses Association

I speak in strong support of
Therefore I urge you to support

Thank you

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