First Choice Health Centers
For All Your Health Care Needs

Connecticut General Assembly – Public Health Committee
Public Hearing – 2-22-17
Legislative Office Building
300 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Testimony by Roxanne Mulvey, in favor of Proposed H.B. No. 6025 An Act Allowing Medical Assistants to Administer Medication under Supervision

Dear Senator Gerratana, Senator Somers, Representative Steinburg and members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Roxanne Mulvey, and I am an employee at First Choice Health Centers, which is a Federal Qualified Health Center. **I am writing to ask you to approve House Bill #6025 – An Act Allowing Medical Assistants to administer medication under supervision.**

I am a Medical Assistant (MA) and a graduate from Springfield Technical College in 2000. I also **taught at Branford Hall as an MA instructor for three years, in which the curriculum was the same as it is now. We were allowed to give injections at private practices as well as Baystate Hospital etc.** I see the need to allow MA's to administer medication to patients under supervision. Allowing MAs to work to the full scope of our abilities (Certified MAs are trained in administering medicine), would help the flow of patient care, therefore allowing nurses and doctors to see more patients and reduce the wait time in which a patient receives care. This would benefit all MAs in allowing them to become more of a team player in the care of patients.

CT is one of only **two states** that **do not allow** this practice. This puts us at a **disadvantage** with neighboring states, in which their practices are able to see more patients and provide a better patient flow. **The imaginary border between two states should not define the scope of work and competence of an MA like me.** This legislation will reduce the burden on **higher cost nursing personnel**, for which there is a shortage, and allow health care organizations to invest our nursing resources in higher impact direct care services rather than routine immunization injections. At FCHC we will be able to utilize our staff of **36 MAs who on average touch 10 to 12 patients per day**, which will improve patient safety. Currently, our **nurses touch up to 60 patients per day** doing **primarily injections all day long, which increases the risk of error and burnout of experienced nurses.** In our model of care the MA works directly with one patient from start to finish thereby reducing the risk of wrong patient procedures that occurs when multiple staff work on a patient.

As an MA who every day sees the necessity of keeping our patients safe from risk of injury, **I urge you to support this very important measure** of reducing the risk of wrong patient procedures, risks of errors to patients, and burnout of experienced nurses. First Choice continues to work on ensuring that we are providing the best of care and safety practices for our patients.

If I can be of any assistance, please contact me at the address or number below. **Thank you for your time and your commitment to this issue.**

Sincerely,

Roxanne Mulvey
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