March 6, 2017

I am Natasha Quinn, a senior medical assistant at Community Health Center, Inc. Based on my experience as a medical assistant, and my role in training those new to the field, I am strongly supportive of Proposed HB 6254, An Act Concerning the Administration of Medications by Medical Assistants at Federally Qualified Health Centers.

For the past 10 years, I have been an active member of a primary care team providing comprehensive medical, dental, and behavioral healthcare to patients of Community Health Center, Inc. I currently train aspiring medical assistants at CHC through the National Institute for Medical Assistant Advancement, and I know first-hand that my colleagues and I, with appropriate supervision, are more than able to competently fulfill the responsibilities outlined in HB 6254.

In the team-based model of care used at CHC, providers, nurses, and medical assistants manage different parts of a patient’s care based on the patient’s needs and the team member’s training and qualifications. We all work together to ensure the patient’s overall well-being.

Permitting certified medical assistants to administer medications would free-up providers to spend more time evaluating and treating patients. Allowing medical assistants to administer medications would facilitate the work flow. Patients wouldn’t wait, or, worse, leave the appointment because a licensed provider wasn’t available to give medication. Patient care is enhanced and health outcomes improved when all members of the healthcare team are working to their maximum ability and highest level of training. Connecticut should allow medical assistants to administer medications. Thank you for your consideration on this important topic.

I urge you to pass HB 6254.

Natasha Quinn
Senior Medical Assistant