Proposed Bill No. 6494-An Act Permitting the Delegation of Medication Administration by a Registered Nurse to Emergency Medical Technicians.

Good Afternoon Public Health Committee Members. Thank you for this opportunity to share my support for Proposed Bill No. 6494-An Act Permitting the Delegation of Medication Administration by a Registered Nurse to Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs).

My name is Shelley Christ and I am the administrator of Home Health Specialty Services, Inc., a home care agency located in Hamden, CT.

This proposed bill would amend Section 19a-492e of the general statutes by including “individuals who have successfully completed an Emergency Medical Technician training program,” as eligible to receive delegation of medication administration by a registered nurse, in addition to homemaker-home health aides, following successful completion of the Medication Administration & Supervision Training to Support Recovery (MASTSR) course offered by DSS and DPH.

To be clear, this bill is not designed to change the scope of practice of Emergency Medical Technicians or to place them under the delegation of an RN while they are working in their role as an EMT. In fact, I would suggest that this proposed bill include “…while operating in the role of certified medication technicians within home health care agencies and residential care homes.”

The intention of this bill is to allow individuals trained as EMTs entrance into the MASTSR course and be eligible to be employed by home health agencies in the role of certified medication administration technicians.

Currently, only homemaker-home health aides who have been deemed competent in CT with a completed DPH state competency form, with at least 3 months experience in home health care as a homemaker-home health aide who can pass a literacy screen meeting an 8th grade reading level in English are eligible for this course.

Within home health agencies, EMTs would not be performing in the role of an EMT. That is they would not be performing life-saving first aid or transporting individuals to a medical center. They would be working as certified medication technicians visiting individuals in their home for the purpose of medication administration under the delegation of a registered nurse.
EMT training provides a baseline level of knowledge that makes the individual suited to assist individuals with taking oral, topical, and inhalant medication. EMTs complete 119 hours of training with an additional 10 hours of ride-along and ED observation time and can perform the administration of basic medications in addition to their emergency interventions.

In conclusion, EMTs have a baseline level of training making them appropriate candidates to hold the position of certified medication technician within home health agencies. This would increase the personnel available for home health agencies, provide individuals requiring these services with qualified personnel, and improving safety.

The goal is to allow home health agencies to hire individuals who have successfully completed EMT training to work in the role of certified medication technicians after successful completion the Medication Administration & Supervision Training to Support Recovery (MASTSR) course.

Thank you again for your time and consideration.