Statement concerning

House Bill 5129 – An Act Concerning the Administration of Vaccines by Pharmacists and Medical Assistants and the Listing of Certified Medical Assistants
and
Senate Bill 67 – An Act Concerning the Authority and Responsibilities of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses

Public Health Committee
February 16, 2016

This statement is submitted on behalf of the Connecticut Academy of Family Physicians concerning House Bill 5129 – An Act Concerning the Administration of Vaccines by Pharmacists and Medical Assistants and the Listing of Certified Medical Assistants and Senate Bill 97 – An Act Concerning the Authority and Responsibilities of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses.

House Bill 5129 would allow medical assistants (MAs) to administer vaccines and allow pharmacists to administer the flu vaccine to children. We support the delegation of administering vaccines to appropriately trained MAs but cannot support the delegation of administering the flu vaccine to children to pharmacists. MAs who are adequately trained and educated and certified by a nationally accredited organization to administer vaccines should be allowed to do so as long as they remain supervised by an onsite physician or APRN. This is the current supervision and it must remain the same in order for us to continue to support MAs administering vaccines. Allowing MAs to administer vaccines would allow physician offices to serve a larger amount of patients seeking health care. Conversely though, we cannot support the administration of the flu vaccine to children by pharmacists. We understand that pharmacists are currently administering the flu vaccine to adults which we do not support and we do not now support it for children. Our primary concern is the
fragmenting of children’s health care. We do not believe that it makes sense for children to be taken to multiple providers for the same service that can be received by their primary care provider. This is already happening for adults who sometimes receive a vaccine from their family physician and then receive it again from their pharmacist. If the legislature does approve the ability for pharmacists to administer the flu vaccine to children, they must be required to notify the patient’s primary care physician if they have one or process the information through the vaccine database for the kids.

We also have concerns with Senate Bill 67. This bill makes numerous changes to the scope of practice for APRNs, however this bill was introduced without having gone through the scope of practice process pursuant to CGS Sec. 19a-16d. This procedure was established within the Department of Public Health in order to thoroughly vet changes to scope of practice before it reaches the legislature. We question why that process was circumvented in this case. While some changes of the proposed changes may be technical in nature, others are not. We respectfully urge this committee to reject this bill so that it can go through the proper process and the proposed changes can be evaluated.

For more information, please contact:

Mark Schuman, Executive Vice President