



**Before the Connecticut General Assembly
Public Health Committee
February 1, 2021**

**STATEMENT OF CHRISTOPHER A. DAMON, J.D.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AMERICAN MEDICAL TECHNOLOGISTS
IN SUPPORT OF RAISED BILL No. 285**

I am Christopher Damon, JD, and I serve as Executive Director of American Medical Technologists (AMT), a position I have held for the past 21 years. On behalf of AMT and its Tri-State Society (consisting of AMT members in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island), I appreciate the opportunity to present this statement in support of Raised Bill No. 285 (SB 285), an Act Allowing Medical Assistants to Administer Vaccines. As introduced, SB 285 would permit appropriately trained and credentialed medical assistants to administer vaccines in non-hospital settings under the supervision of a physician or an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN).

AMT is a national nonprofit certification organization and professional society for allied health personnel headquartered in Rosemont, Illinois. AMT's membership includes medical assistants, clinical laboratory technologists and technicians, phlebotomists, and related healthcare personnel. At the close of its 2020 fiscal year, AMT had approximately 88,000 active member-certificants nationally, of which a significant majority – more than 68,000 – are certified as Registered Medical Assistants (RMAs). Of those, approximately 1,300 active RMAs reside and/or work in the State of Connecticut. AMT has been credentialing medical assistants since 1972, and its RMA certification program is fully accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA).

AMT strongly supports SB 285 and urges the committee to report the bill favorably.

Under SB 285, individuals who meet the bill's definition of medical assistant – including graduation from an accredited medical assisting education program and certification by an accredited certifying organization such as AMT – and who have completed at least twenty-four (24) hours of classroom training and at least eight (8) hours of hands-on clinical training in vaccine administration, would be qualified to administer vaccinations under the supervision, control, and responsibility of a physician or an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) in a non-hospital setting. The qualifications required to administer vaccines under SB 285 equal or exceed the standards imposed by any other state that regulates the practice of medical assisting.

As the committee members are probably aware, medical assistants are authorized to administer immunizations and other non-intravenous injections under supervision of a

licensed practitioner in 48 of the 50 states, with Connecticut being one of only two states that currently interpret their medical practice laws to prohibit any form of medication administration by medical assistants. The ongoing COVID-19 emergency highlights the importance of utilizing medical assistants to the full extent of their training, education, and skillsets. Enacting SB 285 would also be fully consistent with the findings of the Department of Public Health's Medical Assistant Scope of Practice Review Committee Report issued February 1, 2013. The committee concluded (at pp. 15-16) that:

certified medical assistants are educated and trained to engage in medication administration under the direct supervision of a licensed physician. Accredited education and training programs that lead to certification as a medical assistant have been in place for many years in Connecticut and other states and include coursework and clinical training in pharmacology and medication administration. The American Association of Medical Assistants and American Medical Technologists offer examination and certification programs that could be utilized in Connecticut as the standard for medical assistants who are delegated the task of medication administration. Mandatory certification would ensure that all medical assistants who administer medication have met the same minimum qualifications.

Raised Bill 285 will benefit the delivery of primary healthcare to Connecticut's population by more fully recognizing the training and skills possessed by appropriately educated and credentialed medical assistants, while at the same time freeing-up physicians, APRNs, and other licensed practitioners to see more patients and more efficiently utilize their advanced skillsets. It is important to emphasize that the legislation would authorize qualified medical assistants to administer vaccines only in outpatient settings; the bill would not permit medical assistants to perform any form of medication administration in hospitals.

We also strongly support the repeal of Section 19a-6f of the general statutes and its replacement with the more inclusive provisions contained in subsection 1(c) of SB 285.

AMT and its Tri-State Society thank the committee for the opportunity to present testimony in favor of Raised Bill 285. We urge favorable action on this long-overdue legislation.

For more information of AMT's Registered Medical Assistant (RMA) certification program, please contact me at cdamon@americanmedtech.org, phone: (847) 939-3371.

Respectfully submitted,



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