



Connecticut Academy  
of Family Physicians

**Statement in opposition to**

**House Bill 7161 - An Act Revising the Definition of Advanced Nursing Practice**

**Public Health Committee**

**March 5, 2007**

This statement is being submitted on behalf of the Connecticut Academy of Family Physicians in opposition to House Bill 7161 - An Act Revising the Definition of Advanced Nursing Practice. Each year that this bill has been introduced we have come before this Committee and testified in person. Unfortunately times have changed and we are no longer able to both treat our patients and advocate for them. We now must do one or the other. Despite our strong feelings against this bill and the jeopardy that we believe this bill places our patients in, we are not being able to testify before you today.

The bill before you would remove the requirement that Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) collaborate with physicians when providing medical care. In addition, it would also remove the requirement that APRNs who administer anesthesia be supervised by a physician. We feel that the removal of these requirements would pose a significant health and safety risk to patients and it is for that reason we cannot support House Bill 7161.

We should begin by stating that APRNs are valuable members of the health care team. They are not adversaries. They are colleagues with whom we collaboratively practice. However, we have not been given any concrete reason why the removal of a collaborative arrangement or a supervisory arrangement is necessary and/or in patients' best interests. The introduction of this bill is the first time that we have been notified that there may be times when an APRN may have difficulty establishing a collaborative relationship. We question why as a medical organization we have not been informed of this prior to the introduction of the bill and must question how many instances the APRNs are referring to. To completely remove a requirement for collaborative practice seems both rash and short sighted, not to mention puts patients at considerable risk. We simply cannot support the removal of a requirement that was established to protect patients and assure that they receive the highest quality of care.

The training and educational requirements of an APRN simply do not permit for safe independent practice. Curriculums for medical students are standardized throughout the country, curriculums for APRNs are not. Physicians must complete at least 11 years of training while APRNs complete 6. Physicians complete on average 3200 hours of clinical training in medical school and 9000 hours during residency compared to 500 for APRNs. In addition, physicians

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