



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE March 5, 2007

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

The Department of Public Health provides the following information with regard to House Bill 7161.

Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) are primary health care providers and work collaboratively with a wide variety of licensed health care practitioners, including physicians, when necessary and appropriate. Under current law, with the exception of physicians, such collaboration occurs without a collaborative agreement, written or otherwise.

House Bill 7161 repeals the requirement that APRNs must collaborate with a licensed physician and acknowledges the APRNs collaborative relationship with other health care providers. This proposal would also remove the requirement that nurse anesthetists must have a written collaborative agreement with a physician, and that while prescribing and administering medical therapeutics during surgery, the physician who is medically directing the prescriptive activities must be physically present within the institution, clinic or other setting where the surgery is being performed.

The Department respectfully requests the Committee to consider the following:

- The requirement for the physician who is medically directing the prescriptive activities to be physically present within the institution, clinic or other setting where the surgery is being performed while a nurse anesthetist is prescribing and administering medical therapeutics should not be repealed.
- The term "licensed health care provider" should be more clearly defined.
- APRNs should be required to maintain arrangements for coverage of patients in their absence.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on this bill.

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