



**Connecticut Academy
of Family Physicians**

Statement in opposition to

**House Bill 6674 - An Act Concerning Workforce Development
and Improved Access to Health Care Services**

Public Health Committee

March 16, 2009

Good afternoon Senator Harris, Representative Ritter and members of the Public Health Committee. I am Dr. Diana Heiman. I am here today on behalf of the 700 members of the Connecticut Academy of Family Physicians in strong opposition to House Bill 6674 – An Act Concerning Workforce Development and Improved Access to Health Care Services.

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 6674.

Primary care is the most comprehensive specialty that exists. As Family Physicians, we care for patients from birth to death. It is not a simple profession, nor is it for practitioners who do not have a medical school education or training to practice independently. If the training for APRNs were comparable, we would not have a problem with them practicing independently, but as you have already heard today, the training and education of an APRN and a physician is vastly different. As the associate residency director of one of the three Family Medicine Residency programs in the state, I work first hand with medical students and residents. I am well aware of the curriculum and the national requirements of training and educating competent family physicians who are able to practice independently. I do not believe that the newer training programs for APRN's, give them sufficient training to practice independently, surely not in primary care. In addition to the rigorous training and education that physicians complete, we also must pass the national board exams for medicine.

We take the privilege of independently caring for patients very seriously. With that privilege comes the responsibility to complete the highest education and training and to continue to do so throughout our career.

We respectfully request that you oppose House Bill 6674.

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