



**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. Roy Zagieboylo. I am here today on behalf of the members of the Connecticut Academy of Family Physicians in opposition to House Bill 6674.

As a teacher, I recognize that what we do is not easy. On occasion, an intern has not been able to complete his or her residency because he or she just did not have what it takes to take care of patients independently. That is, despite the fact that they completed four years of college and four years of medical school and had more clinical training than an APRN would have when finished with all of their training, they just were not meant to practice independently. It is not easy to recognize at the beginning stages of education and training who will be a competent practitioner early in the process. It takes years of hands on training backed up with a medical school education to become a competent independent practitioner. In order to provide the best possible health care and protect the public, we think it is essential that anyone practicing independently have the highest education and training. We do not believe that the educational and training requirements of an APRN are designed to allow for independent practice.

It is ironic that many graduating medical students go into sub-specialty training because they are overwhelmed by the wide scope of primary care medicine and are concerned that they will not be able to be competent after four years of medical school and three years of residency training. It is difficult to fit in all the required core curriculum conferences within the three years of residency training never mind the much shorter programs designed to educate APRNs. When we have graduates of medical schools that are not quite as good as UCONN, we end up spending a lot of time going back over the basics. In addition, it takes a long time to develop the skill of knowing when and what you don't know. It can only be learned through experience and now that residents are restricted by the 80 hour work week, it is hard to ensure that they develop this skill (but impossible to ensure that graduating APRNs will have this skill).

I have worked in collaboration and supervision with many APRNs and physician assistants who have years of experience and whom under collaboration and supervision I would trust to take care of any of my family. Patients need to be able to trust that medical professionals are well trained and competent to practice in an independent setting.

I would be happy to answer any questions.

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