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HEZEKIAH BEARDSLEY CONNECTICUT CHAPTER

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We are here today to oppose section 2 of HB 6674 ***AN ACT CONCERNING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVED ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE SERVICES.***

Over a decade ago, the CT Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics worked with the Advanced Practice Registered Nurses to come up with language that would allow for the relationship between the NP's and the physicians. The words "shall collaborate" were incorporated and we all have been living with that relationship since. There are many pediatricians who work every day with APRN's and have wonderful working relationships, and feel they could not be as productive without having them in their offices.

Unfortunately, we cannot agree to the new proposed language in section 2. It is not acceptable in this state to have APRN's have independent practice, and care for children without a collaborative agreement with a physician. There are many circumstances where it could be incredibly dangerous to allow someone with much less training than a physician has to care solely for a patient. Lack of access is not a good enough reason to allow someone who is not sufficiently trained to treat a patient who needs certain types of treatment.

Further, we are incredibly surprised with the language which states that the APRN's can work with any other licensed healthcare provider. This is potentially incredibly dangerous. The Health Department licenses many types of practitioners: vets, acupuncturists, physical therapists, or hairdressers. Do you really want someone who has had an additional year of training, and who collaborates with an acupuncturist and not a physician to care for you or your children?

The National American Academy of Pediatrics has signed a document that accepts that there are certain states that allow for nurse practitioners to be independent, and thus, has agreed that in those states, APRN's may be the primary care provider in a medical home. The CT Chapter does not agree with that statement, and has expressed that to our leadership. As you know, there are many circumstances across the country, and while those types of situations may be acceptable in other states, we do not believe that in Connecticut independent practice nurse practitioner's is not a necessity.

The CT Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and its 1000 members asks that you keep the language as is, which allows for nurse practitioners to work collaboratively with a licensed physician.