

**Connecticut Coalition of Advanced Practice Nurses**  
American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM), Region I, Chapter 2  
Connecticut Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Society (CT APRNS)  
Connecticut Association of Nurse Anesthetists (CANA)  
Connecticut Nurses' Association (CNA)  
Connecticut Society of Nurse Psychotherapists (CSNP)  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP), Connecticut Chapter  
The Northwest Nurse Practitioner Group

March 16, 2009      COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH

**Testimony in SUPPORT of Raised Bill 6674, AAC Workforce  
Development and Improved Access to Healthcare Services**

Senator Harris, Representative Ritter, and Members of the Public Health  
Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity. My name is Shirley Samy. I have worked  
in the Middlebury/Waterbury area for 12 years as an Adult Nurse  
Practitioner. Over this time, I have noted patient access to healthcare  
has been significantly reduced.

One reason for the decline in access is the loss of primary care  
physicians. In my setting alone, I have lost 10 collaborating physicians in  
10 years. Only one of these physicians remains in primary care, at  
another practice. The others have left to become hospitalists, specialists,  
researchers, educators, or to work in the VA or similar healthcare system.  
Another reason for reduced access is the limited number of primary care  
practices who accept Medicaid or uninsured patients. Some working  
patients are not even eligible for State assisted healthcare and are forced  
to come to the Malta House of Care Mobile health van for which I  
volunteer as a Primary Care Provider.

Please support the APRN as an independent primary care provider and  
allow increased access to care for patients. With the APRN focus on  
health education, health promotion, and disease prevention, the APRN is  
a qualified provider for our population in need of preventive care and  
chronic disease management.

Thank you for your consideration in this urgent healthcare matter.

Shirley Samy, MSN, APRN  
Adult Nurse Practitioner