

March 16, 2009 COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH

**Testimony in SUPPORT of Raised Bill No.6674, AAC Workforce Development and Improved Access to Healthcare Services**

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

My name is Julie Burns. I am a Family Nurse Practitioner who has been practicing in Connecticut for fourteen years. I write to support eliminating the mandatory collaborative agreement for APRNs to practice in Connecticut.

Nurse Practitioners have continued to demonstrate the ability to provide high quality care and an exceptional wellness approach. Nurse Practitioners play a very important role as our health care system evolves. Nurse Practitioners are not looking to take over physician practices. As has been well-documented, there are overlapping scopes of practice between many types of health care providers, and that is true for physicians and nurse practitioners. In addition to certain overlapping practice, a nurse practitioner has the necessary teaching and prevention tools that help with health promotion and chronic disease management, for instance, two areas of major interest in primary care.

In addition there have been several studies done which have looked at the safety of Nurse Practitioners as effective providers in Primary Care. They have compared outcomes of both nurse practitioners and physicians, and have demonstrated positive outcomes in the level and quality of care that Nurse Practitioners provide. The quality of communication and the discussion of wellness and prevention have been shown to be significantly higher. Nurse Practitioners in the state of Connecticut are not asking to be recognized as physicians but as effective Independent care givers whose profession has demonstrated an ability to provide effective and safe health care independently.

Thank you for your consideration.

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