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**Insurance and Real Estate Committee Feb.25, 2010**

**Testimony in SUPPORT of Bill # 192 AN ACT CONCERNING ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES AND PRIMARY CARE PROVIDERS FOR INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE POLICIES.**

Senator Crisco, Representative Fontana, thank you for hearing this bill. My name is Nanette Alexander and I am an adult nurse practitioner currently employed in a private practice and have been a primary care provider for fifteen years.

I am credentialed by both Medicare and Medicaid. I am credentialed by insurers when they allow. However, no commercial insurers in Connecticut currently empanel advanced practice registered nurses as primary care providers. This has caused patient care and financial concerns for my practice.

Currently, patients that choose me as their primary care provider and have commercial insurance have to select one of my physician colleagues for their primary care provider of record. This selection often causes confusion when referrals for specialty care and pre-certifications are needed in the course of meeting patient health care needs. Since physician colleagues become the primary provider of record, consultations and reports are directed to them. This could potentially cause delay in communication of test results to me as the patient's actual primary care provider.

Co-payments are often at different rates for primary care providers than specialty providers. I have had to adjust co-payment amounts to equal that of a primary care payment, because I was considered a specialist for insurance billing purposes, even though I was in reality their primary care provider. This becomes a fiscal burden to both my practice and to my patients.

I am asking that to improve the care of my current patients, and to be available as a primary care provider to future patients, that APRNs be credentialed as primary care providers. This would remove any confusion that occurs when I am not listed as PCP of record and provide the transparency of what is actually happening in practice.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue. Please contact me with further questions.

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