

FTR

192

Insurance and real Estate committee

Vanessa Pomarico, MSN, FSN-BC

In SUPPORT of RSB No. 192 **AN ACT CONCERNING ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES AND PRIMARY CARE PROVIDERS FOR INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE POLICIES.**

I am a practicing APRN in Internal Medicine providing primary care healthcare to patients 18 and older. I am in support of Raised bill #192. This bill would help to remove many obstacles created by insurance companies not recognizing APRNs as primary care providers.

When insurance companies do not recognize APRNs, it results in delay of diagnoses for patients as other providers and healthcare entities (such as radiologists, labs or other specialty providers) insist on sending results that I have requested for my patients to whomever is billing the carrier, namely, a doctor in the office, and NOT THE PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER. Since I am not credentialed I cannot bill the carrier and, consequently, my requested reports will go to a physician who has no relationship with the patient. This causes significant delays before I track down the report or staff gets this report to me. This delay can be crucial to determining a timely diagnosis and establishing appropriate treatment time frames.

Also, patients have a difficult time finding me in a directory. If they have been referred to me by another patient or another healthcare provider and do not see me listed in their insurance company's directory of approved providers, they will seek healthcare elsewhere. It also impacts on patients who are fearful that their visit with me will not be covered since I am not recognized by their insurance carriers.

For those companies who do not recognize me as a provider, in order for my office to legally bill for some visits, I must ask the billing physician to enter the room, see the patient and document the visit. This is not only repetitive and unnecessary, but not very time efficient as the physician must then leave his/her patient in order to see my patient. All primary care providers have independent relationships with their patients and this current insurance system, in effect, is creating a duplicative system on paper. If we don't comply with this wasteful system, we have to refuse to treat this patient.

Please pass this legislation. It is in the interest of good patient care.

Thank you for your consideration.
Vanessa Pomarico, MSN, FNP-BC