192

WINDHAM COUNTY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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Statement in opposition to

Senate Bill 192 – An Act Concerning Advanced Practice Registered Nurses and Primary Care Providers for Individual or Group Health Insurance Policies

Insurance and Real Estate Committee

February 25, 2010

This statement is being submitted on behalf of the members of the Windham County Medical Association in opposition to Senate Bill 192 – An Act Concerning Advanced Practice Registered Nurses and Primary Care Providers for Individual or Group Health Insurance Policies because of the jeopardy that we believe this bill places our patients in.

We question why this bill is needed, as the risk it poses to patients is significant. This bill attempts to change how health care is delivered through the insurance statutes and attempts to bypass the primary care physician. When allowing APRNs to be listed as primary care providers, the impression is created that they are equivalent in training and education to a physician. We know from past hearings that this is not true and that Connecticut law currently requires that APRNs collaborate with a physician. This is so because of the increased training and educational requirements of physicians.

We trust APRNs expertise and rely on their nursing ability. They are valuable members of the health care team and while APRNs possess important skills, that is not the same thing as being a primary care provider.

We respectfully request that you oppose Senate Bill 192.

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