



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITY CONTROL

THE ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

House Bill 6405: AAC CERTIFICATION OF SERIOUSLY ILL UTILITY
CUSTOMERS

February 24, 2011

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITY CONTROL

The Department of Public Utility Control (Department) supports the intent of House Bill No. 6405, which would allow Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) certify to a utility company or electric supplier that one of its customers is seriously ill and such company or supplier should not terminate the customer's service.

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 16-262d(b) provides consumers protection against utility service termination (e.g., for non-payment/delinquency), if the customer's "*registered physician*" verifies that she/he, or a member of the household has a serious illness or life-threatening condition. Proposed H.B. No. 6405 would expand the definition of medical professional authorized to certify serious illness or life-threatening condition to include Advanced Practice Nurse Practitioners.

The Department interacts with thousands of utility customers each year and believes such a change is in keeping with the realities of modern day medical treatment. The Department's experience has been that many individuals receive primary medical treatment from qualified medical service providers, such as APRNs. Lastly, the Department notes that although the aforementioned professionals are not "registered physicians" they are the primary health care providers for a growing number of our state's residents.

The Department thanks the Committee for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill.