

ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

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RAISED BILL No. 6405 AAC CERTIFICATION OF SERIOUSLY ILL UTILITY CUSTOMERS..

Testimony of Stacie Zibel IN SUPPORT OF RAISED BILL No. 6405

Senator Fonfara, Representative Nardello, and members of the Committee
Thank you for raising this bill.

There have been several situations where my seriously ill patients were in need of certifications because they were in jeopardy of having their power shut off. Unfortunately, because state law does not allow me to certify seriously ill patients to the electric companies, patients have had to wait several days for the physicians to sign the request. The rationale behind this, according to the physicians, is that my patients are not their patients. This is true, but my lack of authority to sign currently creates a situation that is detrimental to my patients who have entrusted me to provide care. For patients who are in need of nebulizers, continuous oxygen, or c pap the result could be deadly. It also places increased financial burdens on the state when these patients are hospitalized because shut off is not delayed.

Please consider adding APRNs to those health care providers who are able to sign the requests. By virtue of our knowledge, expertise and education we are able to make decisions that are based on need rather than convenience.

Stacie Zibel APRN-BC, CDE