JOINT PUBLIC HEARING

INSURANCE & REAL ESTATE - PUBLIC HEALTH

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEES

2/14/11

Senators Crisco, Stillman, Musto,
Representatives Megna, Ritter, Tercyak and Committeemembers:

CT APRN SOCIETY

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB No. 6305 AAC IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTINET PLAN

My name is Lynn Rapsilber, Nurse Practitioner ,former Pres. of the CT Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Society (CT APRN Society) and former member of the Preventive Health Advisory Committee of SustiNet.

I applaud the goals of the SustiNet Plan and know first hand of the shortages in CT of Primary Care Providers, as well as the ongoing and increasing limitations placed on access to care by deliberate policy decisions. This is very prevalent in my part of the state – the Northwestern corner. The goals of high-quality health care that is effective, efficient, safe, timely, patient-centered and equitable are worthy of this great effort. All primary care providers need to take an active role in working together toward these goals and all primary care providers need to be at the table if meeting these goals is sincerely intended.

To bring to the table different perspectives with added knowledge of barriers to access, all main primary care providers should be named to the Board of Directors. That would include a CT licensed primary care APRN who practices in CT. APRNs currently practice in all settings including in their own private practices. Without this group of primary care providers actively participating in this plan, and represented at this level, there will remain a serious gap in information needed regarding full access to care. I respectfully ask that you add one appointment to include a primary care APRN on the Board of Directors.

And likewise in line 857 you need to attract primary care APRNs as well as physicians if you are going to serve the populations you hope to serve.

APRNs nationwide are known to practice wellness care, patient-centered care and welcome the recognition now being given this approach. The CT APRN community is ready to assist CT to achieve these goals. We wish you good luck and the wisdom and tenacity needed as you plan an entire system of care for CT residents.