

FIR

INSURANCE AND REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE

PUBLIC HEARING FEBRUARY 2, 2011

**RAISED BILL No. 6306 AAC THE LISTING OF ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES IN MANAGED CARE ORGANIZATION PROVIDER LISTINGS, AND PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER DESIGNATIONS.**

**Testimony of Nanette Alexander IN SUPPORT OF RAISED BILL No. 6306**

Senator Crisco, Representative Megna, and members of the Committee

Thank you for raising this bill and providing an opportunity to speak on an important issue affecting access to primary care.

My name is Nanette Alexander and I'm testifying in support of Raised Bill No. 6306 - I have been a nurse practitioner since 1995 and served as a primary care provider since that time. Patients that choose me as primary care provider face barriers with access and reimbursement for my services.

There are third party commercial insurance carriers that provide coverage to residents of Connecticut that currently will not empanel nurse practitioners as providers of care. When I provide services to these patients, my services need to be billed under a physician provider in my practice. This current billing system often creates confusion and there is a lack of transparency as to who provided the service to the patient.

The absence of nurse practitioner providers empaneled limits the consumers' choice. Primary care providers can be scarce in a geographic area of choice. The lack of empanelment removes the choice of an advanced practice provider as an option for those who would choose those services.

Please consider supporting this important bill that increase visibility and access to nurse practitioners as primary care providers.

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