

ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSE (APRN) SOCIETY CT

Insurance and Real Estate Committee – 02/08/11

RB No. 6236 AA REQUIRING THE INCLUSION OF PRIMARY CARE PROVIDERS ON HEALTH INSURANCE IDENTIFICATION CARDS.

Committee Co Chair Crisco and Megna and Committee Members, my name is Penny McEvoy and I am President of APRN Society of Connecticut

The APRN Society wishes to bring to your attention the fact that not all primary care providers are given Insurance ID #s, namely APRNs, even though they are primary care providers for insurance enrollees. Their name cannot appear on the ID card because the insurance companies won't allow properly licensed APRNs to be listed in their directories and patient's can only pick a primary care provider of record from their insurance directories. Insurance companies accept the APRN as primary care providers but refuse to allow them to be the provider of record. This causes major interruptions of care and many reports go to a name on the card even though that provider never sees the patient and has no responsibility for that patient.

Currently, in CT, United Health Care and Cigna do not credential APRNs even though APRNs treat their patients. Aetna has just this past year changed their policy to credential APRNs across the nation even though they refuse to properly list the APRN as a primary care provider.

This issue is related to the bill in front of you because the name on the card may very well not be the patient's primary care provider. There are two related bills in CT which have been introduced to address this problem of properly credentialing and listing APRNs, Proposed Bill #5759 and Committee Bill #6306.

However, if this bill before you today advances without that "fix" in place it would simply add to that problem since intent is to identify the primary care provider by that card.

For these reasons, the APRN Society respectfully request the following changes at such time as this proposal is given a Joint Favorable Report by this Committee.

Line 6 after "include" insert "participating advanced practice registered nurses in their listing of providers and shall include".

Line 7 replace "physician" with "provider"

Line 13 after "include" insert "participating advanced practice registered nurses in their listing of providers and shall include"

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