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Waterbury Medical Association

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Statement in opposition to

House Bill 6306 – An Act Concerning the Listing of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses in Managed Care Organization Provider Listings, and Primary Care Provider Designations

Insurance and Real Estate Committee

February 22, 2011

This statement is being submitted on behalf of the 300 members of the Waterbury Medical Association in strong opposition to House Bill 6306 – An Act Concerning Advanced Practice Registered Nurses in Managed Care Organization Provider Listings, and Primary Care Provider Designations.

This bill is misleading to the public and confuses a very complicated issue. We collaborate regularly with APRNs. However, we question why it is necessary that they be named as primary care providers when they are not.

The training and educational requirements of an APRN simply do not permit them to be primary care providers. Curriculums for medical students are standardized throughout the country, curriculums for APRNs are not. Physicians must complete at least 11 years of training while APRNs complete 6. Physicians complete on average 3200 hours of clinical training in medical school and 9000 hours during residency compared to 500 for APRNs. In addition, physicians must complete a minimum of 50 hours of continuing education per year while APRNs are not mandated to complete any. The substantial differences in education and training are clear. Our training and education prepare us to diagnose challenging diseases and illnesses, to safely prescribe and administer medications including controlled substances, and to develop and oversee a treatment plan. We do not believe that given the differences between physicians' training and education and that of an APRN, that they are adequately prepared to be primary care providers. To represent anything else to the public by allowing them to choose between APRNs and physicians for their primary care confuses the issue and puts patients at considerable risk.

We respectfully request that you oppose House Bill 6306.

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