

Bonhomme, Penny

From: Ash, Erin [EAsh@stamhealth.org]
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To: PHC Testimony
Subject: Transcript of written testimony 3/16/12

Provided by Erin Ash, MS, CGC on Friday, March 16 at Public Hearing of the Public Health Committee, regarding SB No. 370 "An Act Concerning Services Provided by Genetic Counselors".

Senator Gerratana and the Members of the Public Health Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak. I am here to oppose SB Number 370.

My name is Erin Ash, I am a genetic counselor at the Bennett Cancer Center of Stamford Hospital. I am lucky to work in the community that raised me. I received my undergraduate degree from the University of Connecticut, my Masters Degree in Human Genetics from Sarah Lawrence College, and I have been Board Certified for ten years.

In my current position, I work with an oncologist who supervises my practice. I do not work with a medical geneticist. The current language in Bill 370 would prohibit my scope of practice and prevent me from providing services to my patients. This bill does not reflect the scope of practice as outlined by the National Society of Genetic Counselors or the American College of Medical Genetics.

In addition, I have worked in NY for many years, and the current language does not reflect how genetic counselors practice in other states. While I worked in NY I had the opportunity to be involved with the licensure effort in that state. The current bill does not reflect language used for creation of licensure in thirteen other states that have licensure, most notably New Jersey and Massachusetts.

Thank you for your interest and effort in recognizing the need for the definition of the role of genetic counselors in the State of Connecticut. I look forward to working with the Committee to create legislation that clearly and accurately reflects our role in health care as in Act 11-209.

Thank you very much for your time.

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