



**Testimony of AARP in Support of S.B. 414**  
**An Act Concerning Advanced Practice Registered Nurses' Certification or Signature**  
**Before the Public Health Committee**  
**March 16, 2012**

AARP Connecticut supports Senate Bill 414. The purpose of this bill is to increase consumers' access to healthcare by allowing advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) to sign forms to authorize needed health care services. Decades of evidence demonstrate that advanced practice registered nurses provide as high quality health care as physicians to consumers, which includes their ability to sign off on documents to verify a person's access to supportive services.

Specifically, SB 414 would incrementally increase consumers' access to support services by allowing advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) to sign, certify or give an authorization where a physician is allowed or required to do so. Several examples of services included in this bill that APRNs are skilled to sign off are:

- signing workers' compensation forms or Federal Medical Leave Act certificates
- determining whether a Connecticut citizen is eligible for a handicapped licensed plate or medically excused from jury duty.
- transferring or discharging people from skilled nursing facilities by allowing the APRNs who work in those facilities to sign the necessary forms. By allowing APRNs to authorize such a service, would reduce costs for consumers and payers such as Medicaid.
- allowing the APRNs who make house calls to sign state forms for homecare services. This would increase access to care for Connecticut's most vulnerable elders.

To provide some broader perspective, multiple states have global signatory authority which simply allows APRNs to sign similar supportive services forms including Virginia which passed legislation in 2004 with no negative effects or unintended consequences. A similar bill will take effect in Vermont in July.

AARP Connecticut is deeply appreciative of the healthcare provided by all clinicians. We need to be certain, however, that our members and all health care consumers can receive the services that they need without waiting for a physician to co-sign a form. This bill would increase access to high quality care for Connecticut citizens and we therefore support it.