



March 16, 2012

Testimony in favor of Raised Bill 414 AAC Advanced Practice Registered Nurses' Certification or Signature  
Public Health Committee

Senator Gerratana and Representative Ritter  
Members of the Public Health Committee

Honorable Chairs and Members of the Public Health Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on RB414. My name is Lynn Price. I am a family nurse practitioner, a nursing professor, and the state representative to the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners. I respectfully ask the committee's support for this bill.

This bill eliminates a significant barrier to efficient, effective patient care. As board-certified nurse practitioner, I assess, diagnosis, and treat patients with a wide variety of medical conditions. However, whether I can actually certify a patient as having or not having a medical condition is a roulette game. Much of my practice has been with low-income, underinsured, and frankly uninsured families – in short, hourly wage earners who are already at a disadvantage.

I have regularly certified adult patients for fitness to work, and both adults and younger patients as having a respiratory or other medical condition requiring continued utilities. When I sign, but the form is returned for a physician signature, the patient and family are the ones who incur the consequences - often another office visit with unnecessary additional expense in time and lost wages. Worse, there is continued ambiguity about the request for which the form was submitted in the first place, which could entail a better job for the patient, or a serious medical condition without appropriate intervention. And yet, there is no rationale supporting the exclusion of advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) from signing, certifying or authorizing a patient's medical condition.

Please support this bill.

Thank you.

Lynn Price, APRN, FNP-BC