

MARCH 16, 2012

**PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING**

Lynn Rapsilber testimony in SUPPORT of Raised Bill No. 414

**AAC ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES'  
CERTIFICATION OR SIGNATURE**

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter, Committee members, thank you for raising this bill and providing us an opportunity to address these concerns.

I am Lynn Rapsilber, a Gastroenterology Nurse Practitioner and Chair of the CT Coalition of Advanced Practice Nurses. APRNs are asking for your support of this bill as it removes barriers to health care for our patients.

The focus of this signature bill is to allow APRN practitioners to sign forms for their patients. There are many Statutes and Regulations that restrict the signature to one provider, a physician. This was appropriate when most statutes were written. However, with changing health care and other providers of health care now available, these statutes are obsolete and create a barrier to care.

As APRNs, we can assess, diagnose and treat patients. We can care for them but often we cannot sign the forms they need. We must find a physician and frequently plead with him/her to sign. This physician has never had contact, examined or spoken with this patient. The physician is signing a form, being responsible for someone he/she does not know. Often a physician is not available to sign these forms in a timely fashion, leading to potential delays in patient care. This bill will alleviate many such problems. For the APRN practitioner in private practice, this problem is even more serious since there is no physician on site, thus creating more delays.

This bill addresses signing forms requested by our patients such as, school evaluations, certification of serious illness, disability waivers for education, work, retirement, absentee ballots, immunizations, tax relief, and many insurance forms etc. etc. The reason there are so many statutes listed is because there are so many forms required and delays in signing proper forms can cause patients to wait for services, programs or monies which can seriously affect their livelihood. These are currently our patients, clearly within our scope of practice.

As for the bill, I would like to note that some statutes have been listed that are not applicable or are redundant. I am willing to work with the committee to review the listed statutes and to revise the list as we go forward.

Please support this bill.

Lynn Rapsilber MSN ANP-BC APRN