

Connecticut Nurses Association  
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**TESTIMONY RE: RAISED BILL No 414 AN ACT CONCERNING ADVANCED PRACTICE  
REGISTERED NURSES' CERTIFICATION OR SIGNATURE**

Public Health Committee

March 16, 2012

Good Morning Senator Gerrantana, Representative Ritter, and esteemed members of the Public Health Committee.

Thank-you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Connecticut Nurses' Association (CNA), the professional organization for registered nurses in Connecticut. I am Dr. Mary Jane Williams, current chairperson of its Government Relations Committee and professor emeritus from Central Connecticut State University. I have practiced nursing for over 48 years and have educated nurses in Connecticut in both the public and private sector for over 40 years.

I am speaking in strong support of **RAISED BILL No 414 AN ACT CONCERNING  
ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NUTSES' CERTIFICATION OR SIGNATURE.**

Connecticut is in a unique position. We are a small state and we have growing needs for providers of "Primary Care" in many areas of the State. I believe it is time for all health care providers to think globally and proactively to address this growing issue of access. The implementation of the Connecticut Sustinet Program and the "Affordable Health Care Act" will make this Global Signature even more important to guarantee access to care non-interrupted continuum of care and patient safety.

We need to heed the recommendations of The Robert Wood Johnson Study on the Future of Nursing, the Institute of Medicine Report and the Josiah Macy Foundation that recommends:

- Nurses should practice to the full extent of their education and training.
- Nurses should be full partners, with physicians and other health care professionals, in redesigning health care in the United States.
- Effective workforce planning and policy making requires better data collection and information infrastructure. (IOM)

Our goal should be to develop statewide infrastructure to address ongoing ever-changing health care needs of a growing number of patients who will need care in a timely manner. This proposed legislation provides us with a huge opportunity, at a very significant time in our professional evolution.

This is an opportunity to prevent a crisis in health care. In order to provide care for the citizens of Connecticut we need to seize the moment and move forward in an organized fashion as we create a seamless mechanism for patient access and continuity.

As the education, training, experience, and overall competence of health care practitioners have advanced over time, the distinctions between many health care professions in terms of their abilities to perform particular health care procedures have lessened. This legislation does not increase risk to public safety. However, by not utilizing all health care practitioners to their full extent of their license you are potentially decreasing access to care and interfering with a patients' ability to move along the continuum of care.

We ask you to support this legislation. Global signature is essential to patient safety.

Thank you