

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING 3/07/2012

SB 186 AAC THE LICENSING, INVESTIGATION AND DISCIPLINARY PROCESSES FOR PHYSICIANS AND NURSES

Testimony of Laima Karosas PhD, APRN

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter, members of the Committee

My remarks address Section 4 of the Bill

I am an APRN with a doctorate degree in nursing and I am concerned about the membership of the Connecticut State Board of Examiners for Nursing. I am also a Board member of the CT APRN Society, serving as the chair of the Government Relations committee.

Peer review is an accepted, valid and effective method for the review of most professions. The nursing profession is pivotal in providing effective and efficient patient care. Advanced Practice Registered Nurses have been in the spotlight as they are poised to meet the demands of health care. What is vital, though, is effective and efficient peer review. Currently, there is only one APRN position on the CT Board of Nursing. As the number of APRNs increases and the requirements to become an APRN become more stringent, it is extremely important to position the BON to effectively provide peer review. The current lack of peer review raises questions regarding an appropriate level of understanding for adequate regulatory responses.

Respectfully I request that at least one additional APRN position be added to the CT BON. All professionals deserve fair peer review by individuals with experience in advanced nursing and familiarity with applicable statutes. This is extremely important for the growing number and diversity of APRNs in our state. Greater representation for APRNS would help the BON to fulfill its mission.

Thank you for considering this request and for the opportunity to raise my concerns.

Laima Karosas, PhD, APRN