



March 7, 2013

Testimony in favor of Committee Bill No. 5568 AAC Targeted Health Areas
Commerce Committee

Senator LeBeau and Representative Perone
Members of the Commerce Committee

Honorable Chairs and Members of the Commerce Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on Committee Bill 5568. My name is Lynn Price. I am a family nurse practitioner, and a member of the Connecticut APRN Society's Government Relations Committee. I ask that you support this bill, with an amendment to include APRNs as eligible for receiving the business assistance contemplated by this bill.

This bill seeks to address the large, and soon to be much larger number of Connecticut residents lacking adequate access to health care services, including medical, dental and mental health. A major factor creating medically underserved populations remains the lack of skilled providers to offer health care services. Many of these same populations have higher burdens of chronic disease. Nurse practitioners and psychiatric clinical nurse specialists provide primary and behavioral health care, work frequently with chronically ill patients, and represent a meaningful part of an increased health care workforce available to serve these communities.

The American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) reports that 75% of actively practicing nurse practitioners render primary care services. Many of us practice in small groups often, exactly as do the physicians for whom this bill seeks business assistance, and we face the same fiscal barriers to establishing a new practice. APRN, psychiatric clinical nurse specialists and psychiatric nurse practitioners also encounter the same business challenges.

I respectfully request the Committee include the APRN community in the scope of this bill.

Thank you,

Lynn Price, JD, MSN, MPH