

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

PUBLIC HEARING 3/20/13

RAISED BILL No. 6391 AAC THE PRACTICE OF ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES.

Testimony of Patricia Casey, IN SUPPORT OF RAISED BILL No. 6391

Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson, and members of the Committee

My Name is Patricia Casey and I am a Nurse Practitioner. As a skilled APRN, first licensed in 1990 and employed for years by a healthcare organization. In January 2011 I decided to open my own practice. I was unable to find a collaborator partially because of confusion on the part of physicians over what it means to sign an agreement and partially because of the cost of fees being asked of me. There was no place for my patients to see me despite them wanting to.

I finally took a position where the collaborating MD was going to get 70% of my collections. Approximately 40% of that cost covered my overhead and billing expenses. The rest was profit for him. After 1 year, he wanted to increase his % as he did not feel "he had made enough money". He wanted me to add another day so I could make him more money despite me being content with the 30% I collected. In 1 year, I had asked him 3 questions related to patient care. I probably had 20-30 calls to other MD colleagues for collaboration issues that were part of patient care and never charged for. I chose to end my contract as I was not going to give him more money. This again left patients with no care.

I am concerned regarding why, based on law, I must have a written collaboration agreement to do what I have been trained to do. It impacts my livelihood. It is a barrier to my patients getting care. I have reestablished my practice in a new town with a new collaborator. I am employed full time by an insurance company (who is also having trouble finding collaborators in this state).

Due to this change, I have needed to reestablish my contracts with all insurers. Five months into the process I continue to have no contracts with 2 insurers, again leaving patients without care. These delays continue to add to barriers faced due to limits on APRN practice. Nothing has changed in my previous education or licensing but just because I have a new collaborator there is another major delay.

I urge your support for this legislation as it removes real time obstructions to practice and access.

Patricia H Casey FNP-BC, APRN, CDE