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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

PUBLIC HEARING MARCH 20, 2013

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

IN SUPPORT OF RAISED BILL No. 6391

We are writing in support of changing and removing the collaborative agreement from the nurse practice act for all APRN's who practice in Connecticut.

We have employed a family nurse practitioner in our practice for 10 years. During that time, she has consulted with us when necessary as have we consulted with her when there is a question that would benefit from her area of expertise. There has not been a time when her clinical performance or judgement has ever been in question. We value her knowledge and expertise.

As you are aware, there is a profound shortage of primary care providers, especially for patients who are insured under Medicare and Medicaid. As our population ages, there will be an onslaught of patients covered under this type of insurance who will be in dire need of sound primary care providers. APRNs are qualified health care providers who have a long history of both safety and high patient satisfaction.

The current collaborative agreement inhibits independent nurse practitioners as well as psychiatric nurse practitioners to effectively practice due to the lack of collaborating physicians necessary by law. There are many states in this country who allow APRNs to have independent practice much to the advantage of the public. Without removal of this inhibiting clause of the NPA, many patients will lose access to care and many APRNs will be forced to close their practices.

All healthcare providers inherently collaborate and consult with one another to deliver optimal care to the population at large. Only APRNs are required to have a written agreement. Removal of this clause and allowing independent practice will not change how these non-physician clinicians practice as they will continue to deliver the excellent care they are known for.

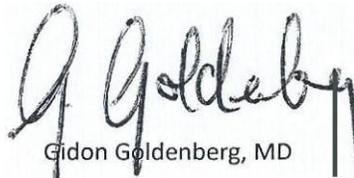
We request the removal of this collaborative clause to help increase access to care for all patients of this state.

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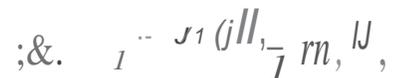
Sincerely,



Eric Liben, MD



Gidon Goldenberg, MD



Georgia Kelley, MD