

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

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

Testimony of Patricia Baginski, APRN - IN SUPPORT OF RAISED BILL No. 6391

Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson, and members of the Committee

Thank you for raising this bill.

I attempted to start a practice providing health care services for people with disabilities. My inspiration came from experiences working in adult primary care and in the disabilities field (specifically with people diagnosed with mental retardation).-

I was able to find a physician as a collaborator at a price of \$1000 per quarter with the understanding that this price could go up if my practice took off. I am still grateful for my collaborator's being willing to sign that form. However, the fee is what finally caused me to cease practice.

DSS had stated that I could be reimbursed by Medicare and Medicaid, but once I sent in the application, there was significant confusion about the nature of my practice by the third party processor. Because of the confusion, there was a significant delay in reimbursement for services (more than usual). MY business had no significant repeating overhead except for the payment to my collaborator. With my whole savings spent, insurance, supplies, etc. After about 9 months, I had to stop. I just did not have enough to pay my collaborator. Honestly, I have never looked to make money, but my expenses outstripped what I had to spend.

I am still proud of my accomplishments in that short period of time. Mobile diagnostics were available for X-rays, ultrasound, etc. Two of my patients had their first, true, full physicals in many years--and they were comfortable with those exams.

One patient transferred to my collaborator's practice when I stopped, and I treat her pro-bono. Her staff cannot get her to a doctor's office.

Thank you for hearing testimony on this very serious current issue.

Patti