

To: Public Health Committee

March 19, 2013

Claudia Epright

**Re: *H.B. No. 6391 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRACTICE OF
ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES.**

Dear Public Health Committee:

**Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony regarding HB 6391, AN ACT
CONCERNING THE PRACTICE OF ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED
NURSES.**

**On October 1, 2013 Connecticut is on track to begin enrolling the currently
uninsured for Medical Coverage through the CT Health Insurance Exchange, now
known as Access Health CT. Since 2006 the Health care community and the
network of Health care Reform advocates have known that there was a shortage of
primary care physicians to handle the large numbers of uninsured in CT, as well as
around the country. Many states that are preparing for implementation of the
Affordable Care Act have already given Advanced Practice Registered Nurses the
ability to set up private practice. They have the education and licensure which
allows them to provide basic primary care for the most common of health
conditions. They currently will consult with specialists the same way that doctors do
in order to provide the highest level of care to their patients.**

**Currently in CT an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse must have a “letter of
collaboration” with a Doctor in order to practice. This is a barrier because when the
doctor dies or chooses to close his or her practice, the Advanced Practice Registered
Nurse must also cease to treat his/her book of patients. This puts the patient in the
position of having to find a new source of medical care. It can create havoc in a
patient’s life especially if the patient is in the midst of some long term treatment
protocol. It also puts additional strain on the existing practices since most primary
care offices are stretched to their limits dealing with existing books of patients.**

**Once the Affordable Care Act enrollment period begins, the demand for primary
care services will dramatically increase, putting additional strains on a system
currently under stress.**

**Many legislators as well as many private individuals are working hard to see that
CT can provide the best of healthcare to its residents. CT is currently among the
leading states in the development of its Health Insurance Exchange. As a leading
state in healthcare reform I believe we need to act on options that will help improve
the health of our workforce. HB 6391 would allow for increased access to health**

care for the currently uninsured. Most of that population waits until a minor health concern develops into a major crisis, requiring emergency room care. This is a huge

and unnecessary waste of resources. More accessible primary care would alleviate the strain on the resources of emergency room staff, thereby making those resources more available for the acute needs of seriously ill or injured citizens. It would also get citizens back into the workforce earlier, helping our employers to maintain their level of service or production.

Advance Practice Registered Nurses are well trained in the nursing model of care, which addresses the health of the whole person. This model has many advantages for the patient. The APRN's can often help the patient have better outcomes and faster recovery because of their ability to advise patients on total self care along with the best modern medicine can offer.

I urge you to vote in favor of HB 6391 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRACTICE OF ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES. This bill presents an opportunity for you to insure that CT residents will get the quality healthcare that they deserve while taking a step that will significantly support the work of Access Health CT, the CT Health Insurance Exchange.

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