

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

PUBLIC HEARING MARCH 20, 2013

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

**Testimony of Sheryl Marinone APRN
IN SUPPORT OF RAISED BILL No. 6391**

Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson, and members of the Committee

I am a nurse practitioner in private practice in Connecticut. I currently have a collaborating physician who signed the agreement without asking for a financial stipend. This was also many years ago and the health care environment has changed considerably since that time.

At this point in time he has no plans of retiring. However, due to his advancing age, I thought it best to investigate obtaining another collaborating physician. Because I collaborate with many Doctors of different specialties I have been asking some of them if they would be interested in signing my collaborative agreement.

This has become a very daunting task and disconcerting to say the least. Many have consulted with their malpractice insurance carriers who recommend they do not sign the agreement. Some have consulted with their attorneys and the response was similar due to the added presumed liability. I have one who offered to sign but at a cost of \$10,000. per year. This would be a pretty steep cost for my business given my much lower NP salary compared to MD salaries and my very high overhead costs.

The State Department of Health recognizes me as an APRN certified nurse practitioner. I am highly trained to make medical management decisions independently and feel very confident in my ability to do so. I give excellent care and receive excellent feedback from my patients. I do not advertise, my business has grown substantially just by word of mouth.

That said, if my current collaborating physician retires there is a high likelihood I would be out of business and that would be devastating to my patient population. This would equate to about 2000 patients in the state of Connecticut who would be forced to seek other practitioners for their health care in an already saturated field. And I would never be able to recover the large financial investment I have made.

With the changes in the health care system along with the primary care physician shortage, it is imperative the state of Connecticut become pro-active in its decision to remove the barriers that affect nurse practitioners from practicing to their full scope.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

**Sheryl Marinone, APRN
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