

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

PUBLIC HEARING 3/20/13

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

Testimony of Catherine T. Milne MSN, APRN, BC-ANP/CNS, CWOCN

IN SUPPORT OF RAISED BILL No. 6391

Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson, and members of the Committee

I am writing to support the removal of the mandated collaborative written agreement for Advanced Practice Nurses to practice in the State of Connecticut. I have been a licensed APRN in this state since 1995. During this time, I have been in a private practice serving the needs of patients in long-term care, sub-acute and acute care settings. Additionally, I make house calls for the truly bed-bound patient. It is a practice set-up that most physicians do not choose to engage in. I have been fortunate to have found a collaborating physician, to whom I pay an annual fee.

However, I interact/collaborate mostly with the personal physicians of the patients I have been requested to see. More than 98% of the consultations I engage in are with physicians who are not my collaborating physician. It is inherent in the professional practice of medicine, including advanced practice nursing, that one collaborates with others in the management of clinical care when, in the best interest of the patient, one seeks more expertise for a given situation. Advanced practice nursing curriculum prepares us for this. It is expected and is part of standards of practice. All providers engage in consultation. It is the norm within our healthcare system.

My collaborating physician is approaching retirement. As such, and due to my subspecialty, I will have great difficulty finding a physician who meets the collaborative agreement requirements and is willing to sign. In addition, I fear the physician may ask for compensation costing me too much money, as has been reported to me by other APRNs. The cost of "doing business" may be too prohibitive for me to continue practice. I urge you to SUPPORT this bill, removing the mandated written agreement. It serves no healthcare need and is a severe barrier to practice.

Best Regards,

Catherine T. Milne MSN, APRN, BC-ANP/CNS, CWOCN