



Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants

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**CONNECTICUT ACADEMY OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS TESTIMONY
REGARDING HB 6391
AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRACTICE OF ADVANCED PRACTICE
REGISTERED NURSES
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE HEARING
MARCH 20, 2013**

Chairwomen Gerratana and Johnson and Members of the Public Health Committee:

The Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants (ConnAPA) wishes to voice our opposition to HB 6391, An Act Concerning the Practice of Advance Practice Registered Nurses.

ConnAPA is the sole organization representing the over 1900 PAs licensed in Connecticut. PAs provide health care to Connecticut residents in all settings and in all medical and surgical specialties along side of our physician and APRN colleagues. We believe that all these professions provide high quality care and are valued members of the health care team. In fact, as the Accountable Care Act evolves to its full design we look forward as PAs to playing even more important roles as envisioned by President Obama and Congress.

Since our inception as a profession we have advocated that the team approach is the best and most efficient method of delivering health care. Thus, we regularly seek consultation with the medical community whenever we anticipate modifying our scope of practice. To that end we supported the work done by the Committee and the Department of Public Health three years ago through the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee to design a fair and thorough way (The Scope of Practice Review Committee) for professions to receive input from all affected parties and from this process bring requests for expansion of scope of practice.

In 2011 ConnAPA brought to the Review Committee a proposal to clarify supervision. We worked closely with all interested parties to modify existing statutory language. Although the process was arduous, we were able through communication and compromises to bring important improvements to PA practice to the Public Health Committee for consideration.

Therefore, ConnAPA believes that any organization that seeks to circumvent this process should be referred back to that vehicle and thus request that HB 6391 be denied.

We would be happy to work with the Connecticut Coalition of Advanced Practice Nurses through the Scope of Practice Review Committee in looking at any practice changes.

Respectfully Submitted,


Drew Morten, MPH, PA-C
Legislative Committee Chair