



Connecticut State Society of Anesthesiologists
160 St. Ronan Street
New Haven, CT 06511-2390

March 19, 2013

Senator Terry Gerratana, Chair
Representative Susan Johnson, Chair
Public Health Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 3000
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Dear Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson, and Members of the Public Health Committee:

The Connecticut State Society of Anesthesiologists represents over 700 anesthesiologists in Connecticut, which includes practicing physicians, medical professors, and medical students. We write today in strong opposition to HB 6391, *An Act Concerning the Practice of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses*. If passed, this bill would negatively impact the safety of patients in Connecticut by reducing the education and training requirements for practicing medicine via granting independent diagnostic and prescribing authority to Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs).

Granting APRNs independent practice authority would further fragment a health care system already fraught with overlapping, duplicative, and unnecessary services and providers, thus hurting rather than helping patient care. Team-based, physician-led care results in better quality outcomes, higher patient satisfaction rates, and more cost-effective care. Moreover, a comprehensive analysis in the Cochrane Library (a highly respected source of medical evidence) suggests that savings in cost, which are mostly due to differences in salary, are offset by the lower number of patients APRNs see.¹

Patients want – and deserve – to see a physician. When asked, four out of five patients preferred a physician to have primary responsibility for leading and coordinating their healthcare.² The Connecticut State Society of Anesthesiologists opposes this legislation. To better ensure the safety of the patients in your community, we request that you also oppose HB 6391.

Sincerely,

Keith J. Ruskin, M.D.
President, Connecticut State Society of Anesthesiologists

¹ Laurant M, Reeves D, Hermens R, Braspenning J, Grol R, Sibbald B. Substitution of doctors by nurses in primary care. Cochrane Database Syst Rev. 2005 Apr 18;(2):CD001271.).

² Baseline & Associates conducted a telephone survey on behalf of the AMA Scope of Practice Partnership between March 8–12, 2012. Baseline & Associates surveyed 801 adults nationwide. The overall margin of error is +/- 3.5 percent at the 95 percent level.