

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

PUBLIC HEARING MARCH 20, 2013

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

Testimony of Olga Selikhov IN SUPPORT OF RAISED BILL No. 6391

Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson, and members of the Committee

I am writing this letter to support removal of the requirement for a written agreement with a physician that is currently necessary for a Nurse Practitioner to practice.

My name is Olga Selikhov, APRN. I am presently in private practice. I provide outpatient mental health services as well as serve psychiatric needs of residents in seven skilled nursing facilities in North Eastern Connecticut.

I am lucky to have a wonderful collaborating psychiatrist who was willing to sign a written collaborative agreement with me. However, if he decides to retire, relocate or simply close his practice for any reason, my practice will suddenly be considered illegal and I will not be able to continue my practice. As a result, about 1000 patients will lose psychiatric services in the area of the state that is already underserved.

As a Nurse Practitioner, I collaborate every day with different members of a multidisciplinary team. Collaboration is a must to provide comprehensive and competent care to my clients. A written agreement does not affect the quality of care my patients receive. It actually limits the choices patients could make about their care. Please, remove the requirement for a written agreement and allow nurse practitioners to practice to the full extent of their education and training.

Sincerely,

Olga Selikhov, MS, APRN, PMHNP-BC

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