



Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants

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February 20, 2014

Senator Bob Duff
Representative Lonnie Reed
Energy and Technology Committee

RE. S.B. No. 110 (RAISED) ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY . 'AN ACT CONCERNING FRAUD PREVENTION IN CONNECTICUT'S UTILITY TERMINATION PROTECTION PROGRAMS', to prevent fraud in the state's utility termination protection programs.

Dear Senator Duff, Representative Reed, Members of the Energy and Technology Committee:

The Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants is the sole organization representing the 1988 physician assistants licensed in Connecticut. As you may know PAs are one of the three professions licensed to practice medicine in our state. In addition, PAs have, in cases such as this, been considered equivalent providers of health care services to physicians and APRNs. For example, PAs are able to prescribe medications without limitation, authorize handicap license plates, conduct school health assessments, determine qualifications for immunizations, participate in neonatal ambulance care and much more.

We applaud the Committee's efforts to create a safe environment for the citizens of this state by giving authority to certain health care professionals to attest to a possible "life-threatening situation" should utilities be cut off to an individual.

In order to cover all three professions that would likely be able to determine such a need and to avoid confusion on who may authorize such attestation the Connecticut academy of PAs respectfully requests that the following underlined language be added to this bill.

Notwithstanding any other provision of the general statutes to the contrary, and except as provided in subsection (h) of this section, no electric, electric distribution or gas company, no electric supplier and no municipal utility furnishing electricity or gas shall terminate, deny or refuse to reinstate residential electric or gas service [where the customer lacks the financial resources to pay his or her entire account and for which customer or a member of the customer's household] for a customer if (i) the termination, denial of or failure to reinstate such service would create a life-threatening situation, as certified by a licensed physician, physician assistant or an advanced practice registered nurse, for such customer or a member of the customer's household, and (ii) the customer has submitted the worksheet required under subsection (g) of this section

Sincerely,

C. Drew Morten, MPH, PA-C
Chair, ConnAPA Governmental Affairs Committee