



*A District Branch of the
American Psychiatric Association*

Connecticut Psychiatric Society

Good afternoon. My name is Carolyn Drazinic. I am a psychiatrist and President of the Connecticut Psychiatric Society, representing almost 800 psychiatrists in Connecticut. I am here today to express our opposition to the section of Bill Number 36, AN ACT CONCERNING THE GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE that will allow APRNs to work independently without collaboration with a physician.

Our opposition to this bill has nothing to do with the value of nurses at any level. Psychiatrists work with nurses in teams in many kinds of institutions and practices.

The concern is that given nurses' training models and the circumstance of clinical practice today, practicing independently in the community is not the best model for delivering care medically or economically. In fact, the model of independent practice is not working for many physicians any more either.

Over the last few years the nurses have asserted that they cannot get collaborative agreements with physicians. This causes us to ask the question: If they cannot find physicians to collaborate with them now, how is the situation going to be improved once the law is voided?

The argument that a less-trained practitioner can be available to see simple problems and relieve the load that physicians bear works well in institutions where such referrals take place down the hall, so to speak. It doesn't work that well in the community.

Allowing nurse practitioners to practice independently seems like an easy solution, but it is fraught with problems that will become more obvious to everyone should this legislation be implemented.

One Regency Drive, P.O. Box 30
Bloomfield, CT 06002

Telephone: 860-243-3977 Fax: 860-286-0787
Email: cps@ssmgt.com Website: www.ctpsych.org