

Mary Lou Graham, MSN, SB 36
Dear Public Health Committee Members,

I am Nurse Practitioner Mary Lou Graham and I am writing to urge you in the strongest of terms to support Bill Number 36.

Every Nurse Practitioner is Board Certified in a specialty area, we cannot practice without being certified. Our training is specialized right from the beginning of our education.

Good practice dictates accessing additional services/case review when the patient situation warrants so removing the requirement for collaboration will not alter how NP's practice. What it will do is allow practitioners like me to not worry that my 200+ patients would be left stranded without care if my elderly collaborator suddenly is no longer available to collaborate with me. Also I own my own practice, for 13 years as of June 1, and I am just about to commit to buying an office to house my practice and that of the other therapists I work with. I don't like uncertainty about my ability to stay in business and pay the mortgage and that is the situation I am currently in.

It is unfortunate that many in the physician community are uncomfortable with Nurse Practitioners and other Advanced Practice Nurses becoming more autonomous. There is now ample national experiences with just this paradigm and it has not been calamitous.

I would rather see unity in the provider community with a focus on caring for our patients who have so many unmet medical needs.

Lastly, our patients are not forced to use our services. Many people seek out our services and request to be treated by us. I turn away 3-4 patients for everyone I agree to take on. They seek our my care being fully knowledgeable about my academic credentials and licenses.

Thank you again and I would appreciate feedback about the results of your deliberations and if you need any further testimony from me.

Mary Lou Graham, MSN, APRN-BC, RN, LPC, MBA

Instructor
University of Saint Joseph West Hartford, CT

Owner, ML Therapies, LLC

Per Diem Nurse Practitioner :
Community Mental Health Affiliates New Britain, CT
The Hospital of Central Connecticut Outpatient Behavioral Health Clinic New Britain, CT