



Statement in opposition to

**Governor's Senate Bill 36 – An Act Concerning the Governor's Recommendations
to Improve Access to Healthcare**

Public Health Committee

February 28, 2014

This statement is being submitted on behalf of the members of the New London County Medical Association in opposition to Governor's Senate Bill 36 – An Act Concerning the Governor's Recommendations to Improve Access to Healthcare. Each year that this bill or ones similar to it have been introduced we have come before this Committee and testified in person. Unfortunately times have changed and we are no longer able to both treat our patients and advocate for them. We now must do one or the other. Despite our strong feelings against this bill and the jeopardy that we believe this bill places our patients in, we are not able to testify before you today.

The bill before you would remove the requirement that Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) collaborate with physicians when providing medical care. We feel that the removal of this requirement poses a significant health and safety risk to patients and it is for that reason we cannot support the bill.

We should begin by stating that APRNs are valuable members of the health care team. Through collaborative practice we have established working relationships that benefit the patient. In the past, we were told that APRNs have had difficulty finding a collaborative relationship. To help remedy this, the Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS) established a referral service so that an APRN who could not find or establish a relationship could contact CSMS and CSMS would then help that APRN find a collaborative arrangement. Despite the widespread problem we were told APRNs were having finding such arrangements, very few took advantage of the program. Given that such a small number took advantage of the referral program, we were quite surprised to learn that the program was not working. We were even more surprised to learn that merely eliminating the collaborative requirement was the solution.

To completely remove a requirement for collaborative practice seems hasty, not to mention that it puts patients at considerable risk. We simply cannot support the removal of a requirement that was established to protect patients and assure that they receive the highest quality of care. We do not believe that given the differences between physicians' training and education and that of an APRN, that they are adequately prepared to safely and independently treat patients.

We respectfully request that you oppose the bill.

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