

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

PUBLIC HEARING 2/28/14

Governor's Bill SB #36

Testimony of Catherine T. Milne MSN, APRN, BC-ANP/CNS, CWOCN

IN SUPPORT OF Governor's Bill SB #36

Dear Members of the Committee:

I am writing to support the removal of the mandated collaborative written agreement for Advanced Practice Nurses to practice in the State of Connecticut. I have been a licensed APRN in this state since 1995. During this time, I have been in an APRN nurse-owned private practice serving the needs of patients in long-term care, sub-acute and acute care settings. Additionally, I make house calls for the truly bed-bound patient. It is a practice set-up that most physicians do not choose to engage in. I have been fortunate to have found a collaborating physician in 1995, to whom I pay an annual fee.

However, I interact/collaborate mostly with the personal physicians of the patients I have been requested to see. More than 98% of the consultations I engage in are with physicians who are not my collaborating physician. It is inherent in the professional practice of medicine and advanced practice nursing, that one collaborates with others in the management of clinical care when in the best interest of the patient; one seeks more expertise for a given situation. Advanced practice nursing curriculum prepares us for this. It is expected and is part of standards of practice. All providers engage in consultation. It is the norm within our healthcare system.

My collaborating physician is approaching retirement. As such, and due to my subspecialty of wound and ostomy care, I will have great difficulty finding a physician who meets the collaborative agreement requirements and is willing. Many physicians have sold their practice to large groups or conglomerates. I would then be required to be an employee of that system to continue to practice. In addition, I fear the physician may ask for a large compensation as has been reported to me by other APRNs. The cost of "doing business" may be too prohibitive for me to continue practice. I urge you to SUPPORT this bill, removing the mandated written agreement. It serves no healthcare need, will add costs to healthcare, and is a severe barrier to patient access, APRN practice and patient need.

Best Regards,

*Catherine T. Milne APRN (electronic signature)*

Catherine T. Milne MSN, APRN, BC-ANP/CNS, CWOCN-AP