



Connecticut State Society of Anesthesiologists
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**Connecticut State Society of Anesthesiologists in Opposition to
Senate Bill 36 An Act Concerning the Governor's Recommendations to Improve
Access to Health Care
Presented to the Public Health Committee
February 28, 2014**

The Connecticut State Society of Anesthesiologists represents over 700 anesthesiologists in Connecticut, which includes practicing physicians, medical professors, and medical students. We write today in strong opposition to Senate Bill 36, An Act Concerning the Governor's Recommendations to Improve Access to Health Care. If passed, this bill would negatively impact the safety of patients in Connecticut by reducing the education and training requirements for practicing medicine by granting independent diagnostic and prescribing authority to Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs).

Granting APRNs independent practice authority would further fragment a health care system already fraught with overlapping, duplicative, and unnecessary services and providers, thus hurting rather than helping patient care. If SB 36 passes as it is written, APRNs will have complete, independent prescriptive authority after three years of collaboration, essentially allowing them to practice medicine without the benefit of a physician's educational background. Team-based, physician-led care results in better quality outcomes, higher patient satisfaction rates, and more cost-effective care. Moreover, a comprehensive analysis published by the Cochrane Library (a highly respected source of medical evidence) suggests that savings in cost, which are mostly due to differences in salary, are offset by the lower number of patients seen by APRNs.

The language in SB 36 is confusing. CSSA is concerned about CRNAs "not in a surgical setting" and their ability to practice independently. CSSA's hope is that the legislation does not apply to CRNAs "not in a surgical setting." However, clarification is needed in this area.

The Connecticut State Society of Anesthesiologists strongly opposes this legislation. Patients want - and deserve - to see a physician. When asked, four out of five patients preferred a physician to have primary responsibility for leading and coordinating their healthcare. To better ensure the safety of the patients in your community, we request that you also oppose SB 36.