

Frank Rector

I BEG you to support Governor's Senate Bill #36, which will eliminate the collaborative practice agreement for experienced APRNs. This bill is significant in that it will increase access to APRN-delivered health care, and improve the primary, and specialty health care workforce in Connecticut. Please do not be misled by self serving or even well meaning parties who seek to control our practice for reasons that are NOT related to the quality, efficacy and affordability of the care we provide.

This is not about turf battles or taking away physician's roles or incomes in health care. This is about an important and separate avenue to the access to efficient and affordable health care. We are not physicians and do not hope to replace them but to augment their impact on the health of our citizens, especially the most vulnerable and disenfranchised who live on the margins of society.

The track record of Nurse Practitioners across the country has proven that we have the training and experience to practice independently and that we provide quality services that improve health care access and delivery. Many of us choose to work in areas and with populations that are grossly underserved and where most physicians will not practice.

I am a Psychiatric and Addictions specialist, Nurse Practitioner, triple board certified, and have been in advanced practice for decades. My CT license number is # 000006 as I was the sixth licensed advanced practice nurse in CT. For the past 15 years I have been working with individuals who are chronically homeless and who suffer from grave mental health and addiction disorders that leave them inaccessible to traditional health care systems where they rely on extremely expensive emergency rooms for health care if any. I go into the community and into homeless shelters and under bridges, into encampments in the woods and even abandoned buildings to outreach and engage such people, gain their trust and provide health care that eventually allows them to connect them to mainstream preventative care, entitlements and eventually affordable housing. Right from the moment I meet them, I can provide prescriptive service to give them the desperately needed medications to begin their journeys of recovery, where they are and on their terms.

The "collaborative practice agreements" I have signed with some excellent psychiatrists who support my role have been nothing more than annual paper requirements, as they support my independent practice and sign the papers simply so I can practice. I collaborate with multiple specialists in providing the overall care to my clients like all physicians and nurse practitioners do, when needed, and not because of an outdated and misguided law.

I have been fortunate to have not been exploited by physicians due to this law like some of my colleagues, but it has clearly restricted my ability to provide the care I can to the patients I serve and I have had to fight to be able to do so. I have been fortunate to find reasonable and confident physicians who are not afraid of the independence in the

services I provide but there are many who want to control my practice for their own self serving or misguided ends.

Again, **I BEG you to support Governor's Senate Bill #36**

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