

Dear Senator Gerrantana, Representative Johnson, and members of the Public Health Committee,

We, the undersigned faculty of and the students from the APRN programs at the University of Connecticut School of Nursing, provide this written testimony for the Public Health Committee Hearing being held on February 28, 2014 in support of Governor's Bill 36 to remove the mandated written collaborative agreement for APRNs. We believe this bill will increase access to care for Connecticut citizens by meeting the growing need for primary care providers and allowing all providers to practice to their full scope of education and training. Connecticut citizens had difficulty accessing primary care even before the influx of new patients expected with the Affordable Care Act. There are not enough NEW primary care doctors to handle this increased volume of patients. By keeping the mandated collaboration agreement in place, APRNs with practices, who cannot find collaborating physicians to sign the agreement, will close practices leaving patients without their health care provider. New APRN practices will not be opened due to the difficulty finding willing collaborating physicians to sign the agreement. Removing the mandate for the collaborative agreement, will enhance competition and allow patients a choice in health care providers, while allowing more APRNs to open practices to provide innovative health care delivery. These measures will surely ease the shortage of primary and behavioral health care providers in areas of the state desperate for care.

The IOM (Institute of Medicine), National Governors' Association and the FTC (Federal Trade Commission) all support removing barriers to APRN practice. We feel Connecticut must align itself with the 18 other states who have removed barriers to APRN practice including our neighboring states of Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island, with Massachusetts also pending a bill of their own. Please hear the voice of your APRN constituents this year, and help us to finally remove this barrier that only reduces our citizen's access to high quality care. This collaborative mandate serves no purpose other than to keep control of the APRN in a fiscal way, as we are required to collaborate with other health care providers as needed as part of our professional practice and in respect for our code of ethics as nurses--the most ethical profession voted year in and year out in public polls. Thank You.

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Malcolm, Millicent

Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2014 12:46 PM

To: Malcolm, Millicent

printed at the request of Paula McCauley and submitted with our group testimony

From: Mccauley, Paula

Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2014 12:37 PM

Dear Senator Gerrantana, Representative Johnson, and members of the Public Health Committee,

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Paula McCauley DNP, APRN, ACNP-BC, CNE
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Malcolm, Millicent

Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2014 12:17 PM

To: Malcolm, Millicent

printing to include in our group testimony

From: Alexander, Ivy

Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2014 12:00 PM

Dear Senator Gerrantana, Representative Johnson, and members of the Public Health Committee,

We, the undersigned faculty of and the students from the APRN programs at the University of Connecticut School of Nursing, provide this written testimony for the Public Health Committee Hearing being held on February 28, 2014 in support of Governor's Bill 36 to remove the mandated written collaborative agreement for APRNs. We believe this bill will increase access to care for Connecticut citizens by meeting the growing need for primary care providers and allowing all providers to practice to their full scope of education and training. Connecticut citizens had difficulty accessing primary care even before the influx of new patients expected with the Affordable Care Act. There are not enough NEW primary care doctors to handle this increased volume of patients. By keeping the mandated collaboration agreement in place, APRNs with practices, who cannot find collaborating physicians to sign the agreement, will close practices leaving patients without their health care provider. New APRN practices will not be opened due to the difficulty finding willing collaborating physicians to sign the agreement. Removing the mandate for the collaborative agreement, will enhance competition and allow patients a choice in health care providers, while allowing more APRNs to open practices to provide innovative health care delivery.

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