

Kathleen M. Stuart

Dear Members of the Public Health Committee,

I am respectfully requesting that you support Governor Malloy's proposed Bill No. 36, "An Act Concerning The Governor's Recommendations To Improve Access To Health Care".

This proposed legislation would remove the currently mandated written collaborative agreement between an advanced practice nurse (APRN) and a physician practicing in the state of Connecticut.

In a 2/1/2014 report to the General Assembly, the CT Department of Public Health responded to a scope of practice request by the CT Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Society.

After extensive review and discussions involving 18 professional organizations, the DPH concluded that "There was...no evidence or data provided as part of the scope of practice review process

to validate that removing the mandatory collaborative agreement would alter APRN patient care or place patients at risk, or that... patients are at risk or care has deteriorated in other states

where there is no required collaborative practice agreement."

Now is the time for CT to align itself with the 20 other states who have removed barriers to full APRN practice, including Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Rhode Island.

The removal of the mandated collaborative agreement would have an immediate impact on access to care for the most vulnerable of the state's citizens, easing the shortage of both primary

and behavioral health providers and enhancing the available choices in health care providers. This is especially crucial now with the increased number of individuals becoming insured

through the Access Health CT system.

The Governor's bill is a thoughtful response to findings in the very thorough DPH report.

As a recently graduated advanced practice psychiatric nurse, I can attest to the difficulties of finding a psychiatrist to collaborate with.

The benefits of removing the outdated mandatory agreement provision or substituting the request for collaboration with either an experienced Psychiatric APRN or a psychiatrist (if I can find one)

will help pave the way for me to have an available, willing, and experienced APRN guide my practice over the next three years as it is most likely that I will join an established practice with someone

who can speak to the quality of the health care that she [or he] and hundreds more

APRN's have been providing safely for over 20 years to patients throughout the state. I ask that you review the findings of the DPH report and support this effort to improve access to care for your constituents. I would be happy to discuss more details of the proposal, or of the work of APRN's who have been practicing for over 20 years with you.

Sincerely A New Psychiatric APRN Looking Forward to Providing Safe and Compassionate Care,

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