

MIDDLESEX COUNTY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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Statement in opposition to

Governor's Senate Bill 36 – An Act Concerning the Governor's Recommendations To Improve Access to Healthcare

Public Health Committee

February 28, 2014

This testimony is being submitted on behalf of the members of the Middlesex County Medical Association in strong opposition to Governor's Senate Bill 36 – An Act Concerning the Governor's Recommendations to Improve Access to Healthcare.

The bill before you would remove the requirement that Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) collaborate with physicians when providing medical care. There are real educational and training differences between APRNs and physicians that need to be taken into account when allowing APRNs to function independently. The depth of knowledge and training that a physician is exposed to and must complete before being allowed to independently practice is exhaustive and time-consuming and it cannot be matched. It is designed this way in order to make sure that patients receive the highest possible care with the maximum amount of safety. We must question why anyone would attend medical school or the grueling and intense training that follows when they can attend nursing school but still practice medicine.

APRNs are not our adversaries. They are integral parts of the health care team and are colleagues with whom we collaboratively practice. However, we have not been given any concrete reason why the removal of a collaborative arrangement or a supervisory arrangement is necessary and/or in patients' best interests. To completely remove this requirement with no real justification for doing so seems short sighted. We do not believe that given significant differences between physicians' training and education and that of an APRN that they are adequately prepared to safely and independently treat patients.

We respectfully request that you oppose Senate Bill 36.

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