

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

PUBLIC HEARING FEBRUARY 28, 2014

GOVERNOR'S BILL #36

ACC THE GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

Testimony of Sheryl Marinone MSN, APRN, BC-FNP/CNS
IN SUPPORT OF #36

Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson, and members of the Committee:

I have been a nurse practitioner for 17 years and in my own private practice for 12 years in Connecticut. I do not advertise. My practice has grown by word of mouth. I am extremely busy and need to add APRN staff. **I have tried to hire other APRNs but cannot get a physician to sign an agreement for new staff, preventing me from growing my practice to meet area needs and employing APRN providers.**

Also, recognizing my own collaborative physician is older and could retire, I recently sought to secure another physician.

This had become a very daunting task and disconcerting to say the least, as the health care environment changed considerably since I started my practice. Many doctors consulted with their malpractice insurance carriers who recommend they do not sign the agreement. Some had consulted with their attorneys and the response was similar due to the added presumed liability. I had one who offered to sign but at a cost of \$10,000. per year. This would be a pretty steep cost for my business to absorb given my much lower NP salary compared to MD salaries and my very high overhead costs. Another physician was killed suddenly in a car accident. **THIS ENVIRONMENT IS MAKING IT NEAR IMPOSSIBLE TO PRACTICE IN CT., SERIOUSLY.**

After 18 months of searching I was finally able to secure a collaborating physician who signed the agreement without asking for a financial stipend. This agreement is dated for 1 year and **every year** it will need to be re-negotiated. She could decide at the end of the term not to continue our agreement.

I FEEL AS THOUGH I AM ON A ROLLER COASTER, WITH MY PRACTICE OF 12 YEARS FLOURISHING YET IN **JEOPARDY EVERY DAY OF CLOSING ON A DIME** AND I FEAR ABANDONING 2,000 PATIENTS - I AM UNABLE TO GROW BECAUSE OF THIS LEGAL REQUIREMENT - UNABLE TO HIRE IN CT. BECAUSE OF THIS LEGAL REQUIREMENT. THESE ARE CONDITIONS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE AND NONEXISTENT FOR OTHER HEALTH PROFESSIONS.

MY PATIENTS DESERVE BETTER PUBLIC POLICY TO ACCESS AND SECURE HEALTH CARE.

THIS COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENT IS UNRELATED TO HEALTH CARE AND YET WE ARE ALLOWING IT TO CONTROL OUR SYSTEM TO DENY ACCESS.

With the changes in the health care system along with the primary care physician shortage, it is imperative the state of Connecticut become pro-active in its decision to remove the barriers that **PREVENT** nurse practitioners from practicing to their full scope **AND ALLOW PATIENTS ACCESS TO CARE. THE TITLE OF THIS BILL IS ACCURATE.**

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.
Sheryl Marinone, APRN