

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

February 27, 2014

RAISED BILL No. 36 COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE REQUIREMENT OF ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES.

Testimony of Shirley Samy, MSN, APRN, ANP-BC, IN SUPPORT OF BILL #36

Members of the Committee:

I am a Nurse Practitioner at a primary care office in Cheshire and Wallingford and a resident of Wolcott.

I want to bring to your attention, the bill raised by the Public Health Committee/Governor to remove collaborative agreement by Nurse Practitioners with a physician. This bill only hinders my care and continuity with patients. It confuses insurance companies, pharmacies, laboratories, radiology services, nursing homes, hospitals, visiting nurse associations and others who also care for my patients. It is not clear to these entities that I am the primary care provider for these patients. Because I have known some patients for over 15yrs, I am the best suited to be their primary provider and coordinate their care. When I changed practices after 15yrs from the Waterbury area to Cheshire, my patients struggled and are still struggling to find me. I could not practice until I found a collaborating physician to practice with me. This interrupted patient care.

Removing collaboration will not change the way I practice or collaborate with physicians. I have been doing this in our community for over 15yrs. It just removes another barrier to current patient care. In navigating the new healthcare system, patients need an advocate to simplify their care and access to it. Please allow me to continue to provide safe and effective care in this new healthcare system by supporting the removal of the collaborative agreement for Nurse Practitioners. Patients, especially our elderly need this.

Thank you for your consideration.