

February 20, 2015

Dear Connecticut State Legislator,

I write to strongly oppose Bill No. 5625 / LCO No 1599 proposed by Rep. Srinivasan, 31st district, AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFINITION OF SURGERY., which intends to re-define surgery to exclude advanced practice nurses (APRN), registered nurses (RN), physician assistants (PA) from performing many procedures for which they are highly qualified.

It should be obvious that this is a blatant attempt at “turf-protection”. This legislation is an attempt to prevent APRNs, RNs, and PAs from performing procedures, many of which are elective, and for which patients pay out-of-pocket.

Here are the problems with this bill:

- There is no scientific evidence in research to support excluding APRNs, RNs, or PAs from performing these procedures
- Passing this bill would have the effect of preventing APRNs, RN, PAs from working as Surgical First Assistant (APRN, PA or RN). They would no longer be able to help a surgeon suture a surgical wound in an operating room.
- An APRN, RN, and/or PA would no longer be able to give immunizations in a clinic, or outpatient practice.
- An APRN and/or PA will no longer be able to suture a laceration in an Emergency room or Urgent Care Center.
- A Registered Nurse will no longer be able to inject IV contrast into the vein of a patient having a CT Scan with contrast to diagnose disease.
- A certified nurse midwife (CNM/APRN) would no longer be able to repair an episiotomy following the delivery of a child

This is not the time to further reduce access to qualified health care providers. The present definition of surgery works very well for the citizens of Connecticut. Please do not be misled into reducing access to health care for our state.

Sincerely,

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