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## **LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE**

**PUBLIC HEARING FEBRUARY 26, 2015**

### **COMMENTS ON RAISED BILL No. 6785 AAC COOPERATIVE HEALTH CARE ARRANGEMENTS**

Lynn Rapsilber MSN ANP-BC APRN FAANP, CT APRN SOCIETY

Representative Peter Tercyak, Senator Gary Winfield, and Members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee

My name is Lynn Rapsilber MSN ANP-BC APRN FAANP. I am a nurse practitioner and representing the CT APRN Society. Advance Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) are licensed independent providers of health care to the residents of Connecticut. APRN owned practices have existed in CT since 1999 and it is likely more APRN owned practices will develop in this environment of expanded healthcare. All providers willing and able to see the residents of Connecticut should be unencumbered to do so. We strongly support the intent of this bill to find a legal path to form cooperative health care arrangements. However, to provide optimum access to needed care, we respectfully ask that Advanced Practice Registered Nurse be added to the list defining "Health Care Practitioner" for the following reasons.

- To provide ready and available access to health care.
- APRNs can enter into arrangements with health care providers to become health care entities in the business of providing health care.
- There are health care provider shortage areas in all counties in Connecticut
- APRNs own their own practices and have done so since 1999 providing services to the residents of Connecticut.

- There should be no exclusionary criteria for any willing APRN provider who is a main primary care practitioner to participate in a cooperative health care arrangement or prospective health care collaborative

APRNs are qualified, cost effective and quality driven health care providers who would significantly contribute to services any cooperative or collaborative would offer and should be added to the list of health care practitioners for the purpose of this bill.

Thank you for holding a public hearing and receiving public comment on this important issue.