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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING – MARCH 11, 2015

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSED BILL No. 6284 AAC THE ADVERTISING OF SERVICES BY HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

Lynn Rapsilber, MSN ANP-BC APRN FAANP – CT Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Society

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter, Representative Srinivasan, Senator Markley, and Members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Lynn Rapsilber. I am a nurse practitioner speaking on behalf of the CT Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Society (CTAPRNS) The APRN community agrees consumers should know the qualifications and training of the providers of their health care. Consumers should know the person rendering the care is qualified to do so by education, training, certification and licensure.

The Medspa task force looked into advertising for services in medical spas and agreed to the following language:

Each medical spa shall post notice of the names and any specialties of the physicians, physician assistants, advanced practice registered nurses, and registered nurses performing cosmetic medical procedures in a conspicuous place that is accessible to customers and on any website operated by the medical spa. Any advertisement by a medical spa concerning services offered must, at a minimum, inform consumers that such information can be found on the medical spa's website.

We should be aware, however, that disclosure of this information in advertising does not guarantee the person advertising the service will perform the service. And although disclosure serves a consumer purpose, it does not guarantee quality or safety of the care a consumer receives.

The best policing of “bad apples” is for peers to report them to the Department of Public Health to initiate an investigation.

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