



PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING – FEBRUARY 23, 2015

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF CONCEPT OF PROPOSED BILL No. 246
***AN ACT DEFINING AND ESTABLISHING STANDARDS FOR THE PRACTICE OF
TELEMEDICINE***

LouAnn Perugini, ACNP, FNP, DcNP, CANS

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter, Representative Srinivasan, Senator Markley and members of the Committee

As an Army veteran with 10 years' experience as a military medical provider to an entire battalion of Special Operations Aviators during both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, I have been fortunate to have first-hand experience utilizing Military Telemedicine Services to provide remote care to my soldiers via telemedicine in many situations. I functioned as the sole provider for a battalion of over 1000 personnel where I was responsible for the medical readiness and performance of perpetual and uninterrupted Special Operations missions. Our soldiers were continuously deployed to 3 or 4 continents simultaneously for several ongoing remote operations in areas where there were no health care providers or health care facilities. Using internet digital x-ray technology, satellite communication linking, video telecommunications and web-based electronic medical records, I was consistently able to effectively triage, assess and diagnose conditions, disposition and arrange for medical management of soldiers in their remote theater of deployment from my office in the continental United States. While remote physical assessment obviously has limitations, telemedicine supported the ability to safely provide quality remote care within acceptable medical standards of care in situations where it was otherwise limited or nonexistent. When considering SB 246, please keep in mind the APRN scope of practice and include APRNs in the verbiage of the bill. By including APRNs to provide care according to the outline of the bill, you will be increasing access, availability and adding to the quality of care for Connecticut patients.

Thank you for your consideration,

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