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February 16, 2016

Written Testimony for the Public Health Committee
On
**SB An Act Concerning the Authority And Responsibilities Of Advanced Practice
Registered Nurses**

On behalf of the 300 CT Ophthalmologist in the Connecticut Society of Eye Physicians we would like to give the following testimony.

We understand that aprn's have independent practice and support changes to the statutes to reflect that change. However, we have concerns that some of the changes in this bill go beyond conforming changes and may represent inappropriately permissive language which may work to the detriment of patients in Connecticut. Examples of that can be found in sections 51, 64, 68, and 69 which could encourage primary care givers to treat glaucoma. Modern treatment of glaucoma requires specialized equipment and expertise usually available only from specifically trained providers of eye care like ophthalmologists or optometrists. Glaucoma can rob patients of their vision insidiously, and proper management requires accurate measurement of visual fields and intraocular pressures, as well as imaging like optical coherence tomography. All of these require specialized equipment not commonly found or available to primary care givers. A simple way



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to address this would be to remove the word glaucoma from line 1916 (in section 51), and to put restraining language into sections 64, 68, and 69, or delete these specific additions.

We are happy to continue to work with the committee to review these proposed changes and ensure that any final bill reflects the best practices for patients in Connecticut.