

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 16, 2016 PUBLIC HEARING

Everol Ennis, APRN-BC IN SUPPORT OF RAISED BILL No.67

AN ACT CONCERNING THE AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and members of the Committee,

Thank you for Raising this bill and addressing patient care issues.

I fully support legislation including nurse practitioners among the list of providers enabled to write dnr/dni orders. Dnr/dni orders are most prevalent in long term care settings where nurse practitioners are at the front line of patient care. Nurse practitioners spend countless bedside and social hours with patients and their families tending to their health and well being. NPs are in SNFs daily and see their patients daily as opposed to every 60 days. We are often the only providers having ongoing conversations regarding end of life goals of care and code status. Based on our hours of facetime and communication, we develop relationships that allow the difficult conversations regarding end of life to occur. As a result, NPs are best positioned to write dnr/dni orders, especially when time is of the essence (daily presence to write orders vs q60 days). Even minutes make a huge difference (especially in this fragile population) and can make the difference between honoring someone's wishes of dnr/dni and performing traumatic and essentially futile medical intervention. NPs can sign death certificates so it only makes sense they should be enabled to write orders to certify a patient's request and wish.

Respectfully submitted,
Everol Ennis, APRN-BC