

Testimony: S.B. No.67 An Act Concerning the Authority and Responsibilities of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

February 16, 2016

Good Morning; Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and esteemed members of the Public Health Committee.

Thank-you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Connecticut Nurses' Association (CNA) in respect to **S.B. No.67 An Act Concerning the Authority and Responsibilities of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses.**

I am Mary Jane Williams Ph.D., RN current chairperson of Government Relations Committee for the Connecticut Nurses Association and professor emeritus from Central Connecticut State University. I speak in **STRONG support of: S.B. No.67 An Act Concerning the Authority and Responsibilities of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses.**

This proposed legislation provides the APRN with signature authority to authorize essential services across multiple areas related to benefits, exemptions and permission, related to treatments, prescriptions, disability services, insurance coverage etc. Signatory authority will facilitate the continuum of care and keep clients safe.

We again need to heed the recommendations of The Robert Wood Johnson Study on the Future of Nursing in collaboration with the Institute of Medicine that reported:

- Nurses should practice to the full extent of their education and training.
- Nurses should be full partners, with physicians and other health care professionals, in redesigning health care in the United States.

This is an opportunity to prevent a crisis in providing care across the continuum by allowing APRNs to have full Signatory Authority. In order to provide care for the citizens of Connecticut we need to seize the moment and move forward in an organized fashion as we create a seamless mechanism for patient access and continuity of quality, safe care that puts the client first.

As the education, training, experience, and overall competence of health care practitioners have advanced over time, the distinctions between many health care professions in terms of their abilities to perform particular health care procedures have lessened. "Full Signatory Authority" is essential to the provision of uninterrupted health care. It is ultimately an issue of patient safety, it allows for the provision of essential services and a safe continuum of care without unnecessary interruption of service.

I urge you to support S.B. No.67 An Act Concerning the Authority and Responsibilities of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses. This proposed legislation supports the Full Implementation of Public Act 14-12 calling for Increased Access to Health Care.

Thank you

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