



CONNECTICUT ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

Good afternoon Senators Gerratana, Somers and Representative Steinberg, and members of the Public Health Committee. My name is Robert Cox. I am from Litchfield and I am now a third-year medical student at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine. I am here this afternoon to speak from the perspective of a medical student in opposition to SB 300, An Act Concerning Collaborative Arrangements Between Physician Assistants and Physicians. Though I cannot say with certainty that I speak for all students, I can say that I speak on behalf of many of my colleagues.

In primary care there is a need for expertise at all levels including physicians as well as their non-physician colleagues. Therefore, there is continued need for physicians as well as nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and certified nurse midwives to be available on a continual basis to meet patients' needs. The increase of the scope of practice by non-physician medical practitioners has discouraged many medical students from entering primary care and staying in the state of Connecticut. Medical students who would initially have considered primary care find it difficult to justify the tremendous costs and extensive additional years in training only to virtually end up performing the same job as their physician assistant colleagues.

The same can be said for pre-medical students who may have considered extensive training as primary care physicians but are now opting for less training and expertise and also decreased educational costs by choosing to become physician assistants rather than entering medical school.

As there are fewer physicians willing to go into primary care in Connecticut, there will be less expertise, knowledge and training for the benefit of the patients residing in our state.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.