



CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF NURSE ANESTHETISTS

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Connecticut Association of Nurse Anesthetists

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Dear Senator Gerrantana, Senator Somers, Representative Steinberg and other Distinguished Members of the Public Health Committee

My name is Donna Sanchez and I am an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, (APRN) and a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists, (CRNA). I am representing the Connecticut Association of Nurse Anesthetists in regards to SB 300 An Act Concerning Collaborative Arrangements Between Physician Assistants and Physicians. CANA believes that the introduction of SB 300 before the Public Health Committee may not be the appropriate avenue for the Physician Assistants to modify their scope of practice.

As the contents of the proposed bill will alter the Physician Assistants' practice model from a dependent relationship to a more independent relationship it warrants the changes in language governing the PAs to undergo a full scope of practice review. The burden of providing access to healthcare has many professionals seeking a change or increase in their scope of practice. Each profession requesting such changes in their scope of practice must be thoroughly reviewed to ensure that the increase in scope is in alignment with their training, education and licensure. This best serves Connecticut's residents and assures our residents safe practitioners.

There are many changes in SB 300 that are reasonable and will truly increase the access to care as far as decreasing duplicity and expediting the delivery of care. There are other language changes within the bill that warrants further discussion to ensure Connecticut residents safety such as the removal of supervision in their practice model to collaboration. PAs, by their very training, have traditionally been dependent providers who have been educated to have a dependent relationship with their MD colleagues. There needs to be some key standards of achievement to move from that dependent model to a collaborative model of practicing.

Without having undergone a Scope of Practice review, it is difficult to ascertain if the Physician Assistants are prepared to meet the expectations and standards that SB300 would imply by the

language changes in the statute. I respectfully urge the Public Health Committee to delay judgement on SB 300 until a Scope of Practice Review has been completed and we urge the Department of Public Health to move forward with a Scope of Practice Review.

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