

March 4, 2019

To Senator Abrams, Senator Steinberg, and members of the Public Health Committee,

I am writing to you asking for your support of Senate Bill 921, An Act Concerning the Scope of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses.

I am an APRN in primary care at InterCommunity Healthcare in East Hartford and Hartford Connecticut. We provide primary care services to a patient population mostly focused on behavioral health and addiction medicine. It is a very medically and socially complex population with high needs. We are a nurse-led office of 7 full time APRNs and 4 part time physicians. Each APRN is the head of a primary care team providing services to our patients.

Outdated statutes with physician-centric language provide obstacles to documentation and patient care on a daily basis. In addition to statutory barriers regarding signature authority, physician centric language also confuses our patients as we try to educate them on the training and role of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses. I have received repeated phone calls asking if I have transferred their care because their mammograms results were sent to the "physician" who would contact them.

SB 921 updates statutes and language to reflect current APRN practice. It does not expand the current scope of practice of APRNs but is a step toward removing day to day barriers to practice.

Thank you for your consideration and I urge you to support SB 921.

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