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Public Health Committee Hearing

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Chairs Senator Abrams and Representative Steinberg and esteemed members of the Public Health Committee.

My name is Dr. Lynn Rapsilber DNP ANP-BC APRN FAANP and I am a Nurse Practitioner and owner of NP Business Consultants, LLC. I am also past President of CTAPRNs and co-chair of the Coalition of Advanced Practice Nurses.

I am writing testimony regarding: **SB 1: AN ACT EQUALIZING COMPREHENSIVE ACCESS TO MENTAL, BEHAVIORAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH CARE IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC.**

Section 14: Sec. 14. *(NEW) (Effective from passage) On and after October 1, 2021, each physician licensed pursuant to chapter 370 of the general statutes to perform a mental health examination on a patient during an annual physical examination. For the purposes of this section, "physician" means a physician licensed pursuant to chapter 370 of the general statutes.

****This section should also include advanced practice registered nurses.***

Sec. 16. Subsection **(a) of section 19a-200 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective October 1, 2021):

- (a) The mayor of each city, the chief executive officer of each town and the warden of each borough shall, unless the charter of such city, town or borough otherwise provides, nominate some person to be director of health for such city, town or borough, which nomination shall be confirmed or rejected by the board of selectmen, if there be such a board, otherwise by the legislative body of such city or town or by the burgesses of such borough within thirty days thereafter. Notwithstanding the charter provisions of any city, town or borough with respect to

the qualifications of the director of health, on and after October 1, 2010, any person nominated to be a director of health shall (1) **be a licensed physician and hold a degree in public health from an accredited school, college, university or institution,** or (2) hold a graduate degree in public health from an accredited institution of higher education.

**** This section should consider an advanced practice registered nurse for this position. Advanced Practice Registered Nurses are trained in health promotion and disease prevention and empowering patients in self-care behaviors which are qualities amenable to this position.**

Sec. 20. (NEW) (Effective from passage) Sections 21 to 32, inclusive, of 575 this act may be cited as the Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health 576 Practitioners Act

Specifically,

Sec. 25. (NEW) (Effective from passage) (a) While an emergency 726 declaration is in effect, a volunteer health practitioner, registered with a 727 registration system that complies with section 24 of this act and licensed 728 and in good standing in the state upon which the practitioner's 729 registration is based, may practice in this state to the extent authorized 730 by sections 21 to 32, inclusive, of this act as if the practitioner were 731 licensed in this state.

With the Public Health Emergency (PHE), it has become clear the workforce of health care providers is vital to preserving care to our residents. Allowing providers to access the state without barriers has been key to this success. As the PHE winds down, it is imperative we preserve the successes of the removal of these barriers. Addressing reciprocity for APRNs entering the state will continue to provide access to qualified providers. If APRNs meet the 2000 hours and three years prior to coming into Connecticut, they should not require a collaborator. Additionally, APRNs should be allowed to provide collaboration to other APRNs during the 2000 hours and three years.