

The Connecticut General Assembly



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REP. COOK RECOGNIZED BY AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF NURSE PRACTITIONERS

To be honored during 2019 AANP National Conference

TORRINGTON— The [American Association of Nurse Practitioners](#) recognized **State Representative Michelle Cook (D-Torrington)** as the recipient of the 2019 AANP Advocate State Award for Excellence and will be honored during the AANP’s 2019 National Conference in June.

The annual award is given to one advocate in each state who has made a significant contribution toward increasing the awareness and recognition of nurse practitioners.

“I am honored to be recognized as a 2019 State Advocate by the American Association of Nurse Practitioners for my dedication to key public health issues and those concerning nurse practitioners,” said **Rep. Cook**, “I will continue to advocate for policies that protect Connecticut residents’ right to healthcare and to address issues relating to the scope of practice of nurse practitioners.”

As a member of the Public Health Committee, **Rep. Cook** was nominated for her extensive work on issues affecting the health and wellbeing of Connecticut’s residents, particularly [Public Act 14-12](#), which expanded the scope of practice for advanced practical registered nurses (APRN).

This act allows APRNs to practice the full extent of their education and training after collaborating with a physician after 2000 hours and three years after licensure.

This initiative expanded access to care in underserved areas of Connecticut, but also enables physicians to focus on patients with more complex needs, while ensuring patients with routine medical needs still have access to quality, compassionate and reliable healthcare.

Additionally **Rep. Cook** worked on bipartisan initiatives to advocate for APRN issues and include APRNs in statutory language. **Rep. Cook** has worked to solicit input from advanced practical registered nurses on key issues, particularly legislation regarding the opioid crisis, including the [registration of sober homes](#) and imposing [limits on the prescription of medication to friends and family members](#).

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