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Senate of Pennsylvania

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SEP 20 2011

TO: ALL SENATORS
FROM: Senator Patricia H. Vance *PNV*
DATE: September 16, 2011
SUBJECT: Memo #23 -Legislation allowing certified registered nurse practitioners to sign death certificates

In the near future, I plan to introduce legislation to amend the Vital Statistics Law of 1953 to allow certified registered nurse practitioners (CRNP) to sign death certificates.

Certified nurse practitioners are registered nurses who have advanced education and clinical preparation to provide primary care and diagnose and treat acute and chronic illnesses in a variety of specialties. Under current law, they are empowered to pronounce death, ascertain the cause of death and provide the medical information required by the death certificate, but by law, they are not authorized to sign the death certificate.

If you are interested in co-sponsoring this legislation, please contact my office at 787-8524 or email Tracy Polovick at tpolovick@pasen.gov.