

**Connecticut Nurses' Association  
Connecticut Nurses' Foundation**

377 Research Parkway  
Meriden, CT 06450-7160  
203-238-1207

**TESTIMONY RE: H. B. No. 5733 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE  
ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL NUMBER PLATES FOR NURSES AND FOR THE  
ESTABLISHMENT OF SCHOLARSHIPS FOR NURSING EDUCATION AND  
TRAINING PROGRAMS.**

**Transportation Committee Hearing  
March 5, 2008**

Good afternoon Senator DeFronzo, Representative Guerrero, and members of the Transportation Committee.

Thank-you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Connecticut Nurses' Foundation (CNF). The Foundation is an association foundation of the Connecticut Nurses' Association. I am Timothy Squires, RN, BSN, MS, president of the Foundation and a clinical educator at the MidState Medical Center. I am speaking this afternoon in regarding H. B. No. 5733 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL NUMBER PLATES FOR NURSES AND FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SCHOLARSHIPS FOR NURSING EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMS and to specifically thank Senator DeFronzo and Representative Guerrero for bringing this forward.



Several years ago our Foundation began a project to develop a specialty license plate that would celebrate and honor nurses and nursing in Connecticut *and* provide another avenue for fund raising for nursing scholarships. We were successful last year in obtaining the necessary names / early interest and commitment to have the Department of Motor Vehicles strike a sample of the plate and take us to the next phase of the process. This procedure now requires 400 completed registration forms for the new plate. In a year we have approximately 100 commitments.

Our intent in seeking assistance from the General Assembly was to ask that an exception be made to the number of completed registrations that needed to be obtained. We

requested a reduction to 200. We knew that our best advertisement for the plates was to have them on vehicles.

Although we support this bill as a way to raise dollars for scholarships for nurses we have the following concerns and questions.

- The original intent of the request is to have a smaller number of commitments for plates that are allowed to begin the registration process. This would increase the Foundations ability to get the number needed to begin to actually sell the plates. This request is not currently part of the bill as drafted.
  - We would like to design a program that allows the Foundation to administer this program in collaboration with the Department of Public Health and in the selection of recipients.
  - We are concerned that: the Department of Public Health's responsibilities grow each year, often without additional resources being added, and that the dollars and resources from this initiative will be used to administer a program that was designed explicitly for nursing scholarships. by a non for profit foundation with an exceptional track record.
- 
- We have the following questions, especially as it relates to the Foundation and to the Connecticut Nurses' Association.
    - How can we facilitate this process under the structure of the Foundation with DPH collaboration?
    - Would DMV raise prices at any time?
    - Will the plate be sold to the general public?
    - Will there be a reduction in the required number of applications necessary before production of the plate can begin?
    - Clarification is needed with regard to section referring to Commissioner of Motor Vehicles establishing a higher fee for number plates that contain numbers and letters from a previously issued plate; that contain letters in place of numbers as authorized by DMV or that contain lower number plates issued in accordance with DMV Regulation....?
    - What would the fee structure be?
    - How will the Foundation be involved?

We would like the opportunity to work with appropriate representatives and we thank you for facilitating this innovative method to raise money for nursing scholarships.