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TESTIMONY RE: RAISED BILL 578 AN ACT CONCERNING LICENSING FEES PAID BY NURSES TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

Public Health Committee Hearing
March 12 2008

Good morning Senator Handley, Representative Sayers and members of the Public Health Committee.

Thank-you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Connecticut Nurses' Association (CNA), the professional organization for registered nurses in Connecticut. I am Polly Barey, a member of CNA and recently retired as the executive director. I am providing testimony in support of Raised Bill. No. **578 AN ACT CONCERNING LICENSING FEES PAID BY NURSES TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH.**

When the nurse licensing fees were doubled last year, many nurses called our office not just about the increase, but as importantly, that no notice was provided to licensees before the change was instituted *and* the confusion created with the implementation. We appreciate the committee raising this bill which will reduce the fee established in the last session and also move the payment to a biennial plan.

Licensing fees are only one piece of the costs of practice. Malpractice insurance, certification and professional association fees are common for many nurses. The advanced practice registered nurse's costs include those as well as prescribing certificates / registrations (federal DEA registration at over \$500. for 3 years and CT DCP registration at \$10, annually), dual licenses (RN and APRN), rising malpractice costs and

continuing education required for certification -- all expenses that have gone up at the same time that provider reimbursement has remained stagnant.

While we support this bill we would urge the committee to consider:

- allowing enough time for the planning and implementation of the changes
- integrating the change in the fees and the move to biennial payment with the anticipated change with online re-licensure.

Thank you for the committee's attention.