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TESTIMONY RE: SB (RAISED BILL) NO. 808 AN ACT INCREASING FEES AND
FINES

Finance Committee Hearing

February 9, 2009

Good Morning Senator Daily, Representative Staples, and members of the Finance 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 Dr. Mary Jane Williams, current chairperson of its Government Relations Committee and professor and chair of nursing at the University of Hartford. I have practiced nursing for over 40 years and have been educating nurses in Connecticut for 35 years. I am providing testimony in opposition of RB NO. 808) AN ACT INCREASING FEES AND FINES.

The Connecticut Nurses Association urges you to consider holding all licensing fees on Nurses licenses stable; this request includes Licensed Practical Nurses, Registered Nurses and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses. Nursing license fees doubled in 2007.

For advanced practice registered nurses this meant doubling both their RN and their APRN licenses as they are required to hold both licenses to practice. This was on top of significant increases that have also been levied for their DEA and DCP certifications needed to prescribe controlled drugs and increases in their malpractice insurance that is also required by statute.

Connecticut 's RN license fee is double most area states and this has the potential of deterring individuals who hold dual licenses from renewing their license in Connecticut.

Many of the boarder states have lower license fees and are more supportive of professionals in nursing. If you can choose to practice in one of those states we will not only loose the revenue but also the practitioner. Nurses, who also have maintained their license, even though they are not practicing, are also considering moving to a “retired nurse” license, which is less costly.

Connecticut is facing a severe nursing shortage and our members and colleagues believe that significantly raising fees again during this period of crisis is inappropriate.

Workforce issues will be severely aggravated by the loss of practitioners who are already financially challenged living in our state. Most current data shows that Connecticut is losing individuals in the age group of 18-34 years due to the cost of housing and living. These are the same group of individuals we need to retain in the nursing workforce particularly if we have invested in their education. The loss in revenue from this projected fee increase will not have the same impact as the loss of professional nurses in the workforce that affects the health of the public.

I have included a listing of license fees for your comparison from other states.

How does nurse’s licensing fee compare to other professions in Connecticut?

If you are a: Your fee is: If you are a: Your fee is

Dentist	\$450.	Physician	\$450.
Occupational Therapist	\$100.	Physical Therapist	\$50.
Optometrist	\$300.	Speech Therapist	\$100.
Optician	\$100.	Social Worker	\$150
Physician Assistant	\$75	Veterinarian	\$450.
OTHER examples		Hairdressers / barbers	\$50.
Crane Operator	\$50.	Pharmacy Technician	\$50.

Fee information available at:

http://www.constructionweblinks.com/Industry_Topics/Licensing__Industry_Topics/Connecticut__Licensing/connecticut_licensing.html

I urge you to not top double nursing licensing fees at this time. Thank you

Mary Jane Williams PhD, RN