



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

TESTIMONY RE: S. B. No. 404 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF A TASK FORCE TO REVIEW THE OVERSIGHT ROLE OF
PROFESSIONAL EXAMINING BOARDS REGULATING HEALTH CARE
PROFESSIONS

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH

FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 2010

Good afternoon Senator Harris, Representative Ritter 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 Dr. Carole Bergeron, executive director of the Connecticut Nurses' Association. I have practiced nursing in Connecticut and other states for 44 years.

The subject of professional health care organizations' responsibility to self-regulate and exist in an autonomous environment is an important one. The National Council of State Boards of Nursing identifies that regulation exists to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public in their receipt of nursing services—and much more. The complete scope of the guiding principles of nursing regulation includes:

- Protection of the public
- Competence of all practitioners regulated by the board of nursing
- Due process and ethical decision making
- Shared accountability
- Strategic collaboration
- Evidence-based regulation

- Response to the market place and health care environment
- Globalization of nursing

The Connecticut Nurses' Association supports Raised Bill 404 and welcomes the creation of a Task Force to study the oversight provided by professional examining boards regulating the state's health care professions. CNA's support for this bill is predicated on the assumption that this Task Force would recognize the importance of autonomous, self-regulating boards for the individual health care professions in the State of Connecticut. The best interests of the general public are most astutely served when autonomous, self-regulating professional boards confront critical distinctions within the scope of practice of professional health care practitioners. Unpredictable changes in technology and practice parameters demand that strong professional boards assume a legitimate oversight of licensure, regulation and discipline of their individual health care professions.