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Human Services Committee

*RB 7111 An Act Concerning On-Line License Renewal for Nurses, Physicians and Surgeons*

Testimony prepared by Dr. Alice Pritchard

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Good morning. My name is Alice Pritchard and I am the Executive Director of the Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF). CWEALF is a statewide non-profit organization dedicated to empowering women, girls and their families to achieve equal opportunities in their personal and professional lives. I am submitting testimony today in support of *Raised Bill 7111 An Act Concerning On-Line License Renewal for Nurses, Physicians and Surgeons*.

Through the Office for Workforce Competitiveness, I serve as consultant to the Allied Health Workforce Policy Board. I have also been an advocate for nearly two decades on workforce development for women and girls in the state.

The Connecticut Allied Health Workforce Policy Board was established in Public Act 04-220 (*An Act Concerning Allied Health Workforce Needs*) to conduct research and planning activities related to the allied health workforce. The Board began meeting in March 2005 and issued its first report to the legislature in February 2006. Throughout its tenure, the Board has met regularly to discuss current initiatives in allied health in the state, gaps in workforce data, issues related to educational programming, and recruitment and retention of the workforce, as well as researching and developing solutions to allied health workforce shortages.

The Allied Health Workforce Policy Board serves a key role in convening stakeholders who are conducting a variety of initiatives. The experiences of key stakeholders and our commissioned research, which are highlighted in the *Allied Health Workforce Policy Board's Annual Legislative Report*, have led us to several key recommendations for investment, including the development of an online licensure renewal system for all health care workers.

The Allied Health Workforce Policy Board has determined that one of the most critical issues facing the state is the lack of reliable and systematic data on allied health workforce supply and demand. Without this information, our planning efforts are hampered and the state's educational infrastructure is producing graduates without a clear picture of demand.

The completion of the development and implementation of the Department of Public Health's online allied health workforce data collection system of all licensed individuals working in allied health fields is critical to the state's workforce planning.

**We urge your support today of RB 7111** and encourage you to require the implementation of this effort immediately as we have waited years for the creation of this critical resource. The Allied Health Workforce Policy Board is happy to work with you in this regard.

Copies of the Allied Health Workforce Policy Board report can be found on CWEALF's website, [www.cwealf.org](http://www.cwealf.org)