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TESTIMONY RE: H.B. 7157 AN ACT CONCERNING DIRECT CARE STAFF TRAINING  
REQUIREMENTS FOR ALZHEIMERS SPECIAL CARE UNITS AND PROGRAMS

Public Health Committee Hearing  
March 5, 2007

To: Senator Handley, Representative Sayers and members of the Public Health Committee.  
From: Connecticut Nurses' Association.

Thank-you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Connecticut Nurses' Association (CNA), the professional organization for registered nurses in Connecticut. We are providing testimony in support of H.B. 7157 AN ACT CONCERNING DIRECT CARE STAFF TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR ALZHEIMERS SPECIAL CARE UNITS AND PROGRAMS.

Several years ago, in response to concerns about pain management of patients and residents with dementia, Senator Edith Prague and Representative Peggy Sayers encouraged a group of providers and regulators to work together on this issue. The group has been meeting and efforts in this area have begun. However, legislation related to training that was passed last year was not clear about who was intended to be required to have training.

This bill will clarify that all direct care providers (not just licensed or registered) will be required to have specific Alzheimer's and dementia training of staff who provide direct care in special Alzheimer's units or programs, including pain management training.

We encourage the committee to support this clarification and are available if there are questions.