



**Moreen Donahue**

Sr. Vice President, Patient Care Services &  
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**Testimony of Moreen Donahue DNP, RN**

**In Support of House Bill 5024**

***An Act Concerning an Education Doctoral Degree Program in Nursing Education***

**Joint Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement**

**February 9, 2010**

Representative Willis, Senator Handley and distinguished members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee, my name is Moreen Donahue and I am the Chief Nurse Executive and Senior Vice President of Patient Care Services at Danbury Hospital. I come before you today to convey Danbury Hospital's wholehearted support for House Bill 5024, "An Act Concerning an Education Doctoral Degree Program in Nursing Education."

As many of the members of the Higher Education Committee are keenly aware, based on your years of legislative intervention, a critical strategy in the battle to eradicate the shortage of registered nurse professionals is the promotion of doctoral candidates to teach new nursing candidates. We at Danbury Hospital are particularly pleased that Western Connecticut State University and Southern Connecticut State University will be home to the new degree program because we are uniquely positioned to take advantage of the program's benefits including flexibility and choice in doctoral preparation.

Last year, Danbury Hospital established the Harold, Myra and Cora Spratt Center for Nursing Excellence and Research thanks to a major gift from Harold Spratt to the Danbury Hospital Development Fund. Among its many goals, the Spratt Center provides nurses with opportunities to advance their education and careers. Like you and other health care institutions across the state, Danbury Hospital recognized the nursing shortage crisis years ago. We, as an institution, have made every effort to accommodate and facilitate our nurses' continuing education, whether it be through the allocation of shift time or recruitment of educators for hospital-based instruction

We believe the goal of the Connecticut State University System to educate up to 80 new faculty over the next ten years is both ambitious and critically important to the health care delivery system in Connecticut. We also applaud their innovative approach to faculty and technology sharing especially in light of the state's dire fiscal constraints.

We look forward to a vital partnership with Western and Southern Connecticut State Universities and we strongly urge the Higher Education Committee's support for the bill to make this program a reality. Thank you for your consideration. I'd be happy to answer any questions you might have.