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Public Hearing Testimony

March 1, 2010

Labor & Public Employees Committee

Michael McLachlan, State Senator, 24th District

Re: Senate Bill 171 An Act Establishing A Licensed Practical Nurse Program

Good morning Senator Prague, Representative Ryan, Ranking Members Guglielmo and Noujaim and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in favor of Senate Bill 171 An Act Establishing A Licensed Practical Nurse Program.

Until recently, the Henry Abbott Technical High School in Danbury administered both a day and evening practical nursing class. Unfortunately, our state's budget crisis has adversely affected this program, resulting in the cancellation of the day classes and letters being sent to 75 applicants indicating that they would not be able to join the program. Unless funding is restored, the night classes will come to an end in December.

Additionally, it is well known that Connecticut faces a shortage of nurses. Programs like the one at Henry Abbott and other technical schools can help provide good paying jobs for Connecticut high school graduates while also filling this shortage.

Although the state is facing a significant budget shortfall, there is a bipartisan desire to save this program. Moreover, I believe that by working together, we can save this program in a fiscally responsible way

In closing, I would like to thank the co-chairs for their willingness to raise Senate Bill 240 this session. I sincerely hope that the committee looks favorable on this bill so that it can make its way through the legislative process. Thank you.