



Southern Connecticut  
State University

Cheryl J. Norton, Ed.D., FACSM  
PRESIDENT

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Good morning Senator Handley, Representative Willis and members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 5024, "An Act Concerning an Educational Doctoral Degree Program in Nursing Education" which would allow the Connecticut State University System (CSUS) to offer an Ed.D. degree in nursing education. For the record, I am Dr. Cheryl Norton, President of Southern Connecticut State University. I strongly support this degree in Nursing Education that would be offered collaboratively by Southern Connecticut State University and Western Connecticut State University.

In recognition of the pressing need to prepare more nurses to assume faculty roles, this collaborative Ed.D. is offered by two CSU campuses that have a successful track record of preparing nurses for entry level and advanced roles. The program will build on CSU's long standing tradition of excellence in preparing educators by combining content knowledge and expertise that is not available to learners completing a Ph.D. in Nursing or a Doctorate of Nursing Practice.

This type of preparation is not only found at institutions such as Columbia University, Harvard University and George Washington University, but is endorsed by the National League for Nursing, commonly referred to as the NLN. The NLN represents more than 30,000 nurse educators from all types of nursing education programs.

In a recent letter of support signed by Dr. Elaine Tagliareni, NLN President, and Dr. Beverly Malone, NLN CEO, they state and I quote:

"The NLN recognizes the EdD as a discipline-based doctorate that prepares the student for academic, administrative, clinical or research positions in education. We fully acknowledge that the Ed.D. is a terminal degree that is research-based and demands the same level of academic rigor as other doctorates...[This] doctoral degree in nursing education focuses on pedagogical inquiry and competencies relative to the specialized role of nurse educator and does not devalue clinical competency on an advanced practice level...It is for these reasons that the NLN clearly and firmly supports the installation of an EdD program to increase the number of nurse educators and to address the nursing shortage."

This is a degree that is needed in our state. This collaborative between Southern and Western will ensure that the strength of both of the institutions will be utilized to support student success in their pursuit of a Doctorate of Nursing Education. I urge you to give full support to this important initiative and sincerely appreciate your willingness to address Connecticut's nursing workforce needs.

Sincerely

Cheryl J. Norton  
President