



February 4, 2010

Members of the Higher Education Committee,

This letter is written in support of HB 05024 which proposes that the Connecticut State University be empowered to offer an Ed. D. in Nursing Education. We believe the bill is worthy of the support of the General Assembly as it will address the critical, ongoing shortage of nurses and nurse educators can be reversed and the citizens of Connecticut assured that an ample staff of nursing professionals can be provided to the health care system. The Connecticut State University currently offers nursing programs at Southern and Western Connecticut State Universities that are constantly in demand by prospective students but which are constrained by the limited number of seats that are available. Part of the challenge is the shortage of qualified nursing faculty available to allow the expansion of these and programs like them across the country.

A review of the federal data on the supply and demand for nurses shows that, if present nursing programs are not expanded, that the shortfall in graduates needed in health services will exceed 20,000 by the year 2020. As Connecticut's population ages it seems clear that the demand for nursing professionals will continue to grow as well. At this time the lack of capacity in nursing programs in the state has caused the denial of admission of nearly 500 qualified students, a circumstance that does not bode well for the future.

The need to focus specifically on nursing educators is in response to the national statistics that demonstrate that the ability of schools of nursing is severely limited by the insufficient number of nursing faculty, specifically trained to perform as nurse educators. CSUS has a proven track record of developing and executing doctoral degree programs that address specific and urgent workforce needs. Given the relatively small numbers of faculty required for the program as designed as well as the fact that the nursing programs at Southern and Western can respond quickly I believe that the bill deserves the support of the Higher Education Committee. The program is needed to allow the preparation of additional nursing graduates, the teaching sites are available and the need in the health care sector is apparent.

We urge your full support for this most important initiative. Thank you.

Sincerely,

*James LoMonaco*  
James LoMonaco

President, AFSCME Local 2836 CSUS