

# State Vocational Federation of Teachers

287 group

P.O. Box 290  
Rocky Hill, CT 06067-0290

Ph: (860) 721-0317  
1-800-378-8020  
Fx: (860) 721-0323  
Web Site: www.svft.org

Testimony of Julie Marzano  
LPN instructor, Connecticut Technical School System

## **HB 6380 An Act Implementing the Budget Recommendations of the Governor Concerning Education**

Appropriations Committee  
March 1, 2011

Last year I appeared before many of you to speak to the need to restore the LPN program to the Connecticut Technical School System. Thanks to your support, I was able to spend today teaching nursing to nearly 40 Connecticut citizens who are looking to improve their lives and become integral parts of the health care field. I speak to you today to ask you to ensure that the Connecticut Technical School System remains to support the LPN program and the other important adult education programs the system provides.

House Bill 6380 recommends turning over the CTHSS to local school boards. However, no local school district can run adult education programs as comprehensive, ambitious, or successful as the LPN program, the aircraft maintenance programs, the dental and surgical technician programs, or any of the other programs the CTHSS offers. Our ability to collaborate with educators and industries throughout the state allows us to keep our programs current and vibrant. The aircraft maintenance instructors in Stratford and Hartford work together, in conjunction with Central Office consultants, to keep their curriculum updated so they can better meet the changing needs of the industry. The surgical and dental technician programs work with the Central Office consultant to assure that their students will be employable anywhere in the state.

I witnessed how important it is to have the adult programs work together when the LPN program was restored this year. Because we were all part of one system, the programs could share materials and equipment; by doing so, the State was able to save money by not having to purchase new supplies. Our teachers were able to return to the program in different schools, reinvigorating the dynamics of the teaching staff. We do not have to work in isolation: though my program in Waterbury and the program in Norwich may be separated by many miles, we share a common experience and a common mission. We understand the high expectations the State has for the adult education programs in our system, and we work together to meet those expectations. To hand us over to local school districts is to sever the connections that make us all successful. The programs may still be run, but the quality of education will suffer, and the cost savings are hard to see. Ultimately, not only will our adult students suffer, but the quality of service these students provide upon graduation and the role they play in Connecticut's economy will suffer as well. At the very least, House Bill 6380 requires more study to see what impact the bill will have on adult education in Connecticut. Thank you.