



**Testimony by Dr. Louise Feroe**  
Connecticut State University System  
Before the Higher Education and  
Employment Advancement Committee  
February 24, 2011

Senator Bye, Representative Willis and members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee, for the record I am Louise Feroe, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs for the Connecticut State University System (CSUS).

I would respectfully submit comments regarding House Bill 5888, *An Act Concerning College Credit for Transfer from a Licensed Practical Nursing Education Program into a Registered Nursing Education Program* on behalf of the Connecticut State University System and its nursing programs. The Connecticut State University System (CSUS) supports efforts to facilitate educational mobility for nurses across the continuum of nursing education, from the LPN to Advanced Practice levels, to address the shortage of registered nurses. During the past five years, the CSUS has awarded more bachelor's degrees in nursing than any other institution of higher education in Connecticut, including a 46% increase during the last two years alone. Overall, CSUS awarded 27% of all the nursing bachelor's degrees in the state in 2010, up from 21% two years ago. In addition, the number of students enrolled in nursing programs at CSUS institutions, including bachelor's and master's degree programs, has increased by 40% between 2004 and 2010.

We understand from proponents of the bill that the intent of this bill was not to enable LPN graduates to directly transfer into baccalaureate nursing programs, but to facilitate transfer into Associate Degree Registered Nursing Programs. As you may be aware, there is already Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among the Connecticut Community Colleges (CCC), the Charter Oak State College (COSC) and the Connecticut Technical High Schools regarding the transfer of credit from the LPN program into the Registered Nursing program leading to an Associate Degree in Nursing offered at Connecticut's Community Colleges. Given that articulation agreements for educational mobility of nurses from LPN to Associate Degree Programs and from Associate Degree Programs to Baccalaureate Degree Programs already exist in the State of Connecticut and have been successful in promoting educational mobility of nurses, we respectfully ask for clarification on the language of this bill. Specifically, what is meant by "direct transfer" into registered nursing education programs? Does the bill seek to replace or modify existing Articulation Agreements which already provide for the transfer of credits from one level of nursing education program to another?

Over the past several years, the Connecticut State University System has implemented a number of strategies to address the critical shortage of registered nurses that have resulted in significantly increasing the number of baccalaureate and master's prepared nurses who practice in our State. In addition, the CSUS also has proposed an innovative doctoral program to address the growing shortage of nursing faculty. We are committed to continuing to address this critical workforce need and look forward to working with you to facilitate the educational mobility of nurses in our State.

I hope that this information is helpful to your deliberations on the proposed bill before you today. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share these comments on behalf of the Connecticut State University System.