



State of Connecticut
Department of Higher Education

**Testimony by the Connecticut Department of Higher Education
Before the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee
1:00 p.m. – LOB Room 2E
February 24, 2011**

House Bill 5888 (Raised) An Act Concerning College Credit For Transfer From A Licensed Practical Nursing Education Program Into A Registered Nursing Education Program seeks to permit students who complete a licensed practical nursing (LPN) education program at a vocational-technical school or a private occupational school to earn college credits that would allow the direct transfer into a second year of a registered nursing program offered by an institution of higher education in the state. The Department has serious concerns regarding this Bill as the LPN curriculum offered by the private occupational schools is not at the collegiate credit level. Each private occupational school offers a curriculum that was developed by that school and is not at the collegiate credit level, so there is no uniformity in the content of courses offered in the LPN program.

There is a 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. Before there was a Memorandum of Understanding agreement, the vocational technical schools, which operate as a system using the exact same nursing curriculum at each school, had to have their LPN curriculum evaluated, course by course, by Charter Oak State College, to determine whether or not the course was worth collegiate level credit in order to transfer that credit to a Community College. At the conclusion of the review by Charter Oak State College, the vocational technical schools had to significantly revise their curriculum in order to meet the collegiate level standards so the course credits would transfer into the nursing program offered at the community colleges. A copy of the MOU is attached.

In conclusion, it is the opinion of the Department that the Memorandum of Understanding which currently exists is the mechanism in place to facilitate the transfer of credit from the vocational technical high schools' LPN program into a registered nursing program offered by the Connecticut Community Colleges. Students who graduate from one of the LPN programs offered at a private occupational school can have their student transcript evaluated by Charter Oak State College for collegiate level credit for transfer into a college.