



## State of Connecticut

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February 20, 2013

Testimony in support of HB 5275

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Gerratana and Representative Johnson, Vice-Chairs Senator Slossberg and Representative Miller, Ranking Members Senator Welch and Representative Srinivasan, and members of the Public Health Committee,

I thank you all for taking the time to listen to my testimony to express my strong support for House Bill No. 5275, AN ACT REQUIRING THE STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR NURSING TO JOIN THE NURSE LICENSURE COMPACT.

Connecticut is one of the leaders in the insurance industry. Today many nurses and doctors are employed by these companies to examine, review files and claims of clients.

Currently a nurse who is employed by one of Connecticut's insurance companies must be licensed in the state where the customer or patient lives in order to perform his or her duties where telephonic case management is needed. The cost is approximately \$400 per state on average for licensure.

There is a high criminal penalty for practicing nursing without a license, so it is of the utmost importance for an RN or higher to be covered.

But there is a very practical solution.

There has been an effort to assist these professionals through the National Council of State Boards of Nursing. Twenty-three states have entered into a contract to recognize other state's licensing for nursing, called the Nurse Licensure Compact. Membership in this compact removes the need for nurses to obtain a license when practicing in another state that participates in the compact.

Connecticut's Department of Public Health would be assisting the insurance health professionals by joining the interstate Nurse Licensure Compact.

I urge you to support this piece of legislation. I thank the committee for their time and attention into this matter.