

Testimony of Christine Holschlag Daniels, RN

RE: Raised Bill 5732

February 27, 2013

My name is Christine Holschlag Daniels and I am a registered nurse currently specializing in dialysis. I had worked for the Red Cross for over 7 years before I left in August of 2011.

There has been a dramatic decline in registered nurses working at blood collection sites in Connecticut over recent years. The rns still there work under charge phlebotomists and unlicensed supervisors. This may put the nurse in a situation that violates her nurse duty by taking nursing direction from an unlicensed employee. Red Cross employees receive roughly 12 weeks of training, there is no educational degree or health professional license required to be a BSNT (phlebotomist). Many employees have little to no healthcare experience when they start at the Red Cross.

The Red Cross stands by that they screen donors prior to donation. Who is there to assess? Under the acts, Chapter 378 Nursing and Chapter 370 Physician, it states “Unsafe care in medicine and nursing results in higher death rates, greater incidence of illness, injury or complication, unnecessary suffering and greater long term expense both for the consumer and society”. The practice of nursing by a registered nurse is defined as the process of diagnosing human responses to actual or potential health problems, providing supportive and restorative care, health counseling and teaching, case finding and referral, collaborating in the implementation of the total health care regimen and executing the medical regimen under the direction of the licensed physician, dentist or aprn under CT General Statutes, Section 20-87 (A). If there is not a licensed nurse nor a physician present to assess a potential donor, to properly diagnose a complication when it happens and handle it accordingly then how can the Red Cross say donors are properly screened and complications are handled appropriately?

Possible blood donation complications include but are not limited to: presyncope, hematomas, loss of consciousness, convulsions/seizures, nerve damage, head injury, lacerations, allergic reactions, and

chest pain; of which almost all I have personally witnessed working there. The latest FDA post donation fatality data released was from 2011 with a death toll of 10, in 2010 there were 5. The Red Cross was recently just fined again for blood safety violations in January 2012 due to inadequate employee training, lack of screening for donors who were unfit for blood donation, noncompliance with SOP's and inadequate quality assurance to name a few.

The Red Cross needs stronger safety regulations, not less. Please vote in favor of this bill and protect Connecticut's blood supply..

Thank you.