



TO: PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE: Gerratana, Terry, Chair; Johnson, Susan, Chair; Slossberg, Gayle, Vice Chair; Miller, Philip, Vice Chair; Welch, Jason, Ranking Member; Srinivasan, Prasad, Ranking Member; and Members- Alexander, David, Arconti; David; Bartolomeo, Danté; Betts, Whit; Cook, Michelle; Conroy, Theresa; Davis, Christopher; Demicco, Mike; Hovey, DebraLee; Kane, Robert; Klarides, Themis; Maroney, James; Musto, Anthony; Perillo, Jason; Riley, Emmett; Ryan, Kevin; Sayers, Peggy; Scribner, David; Tercyak, Peter; Widlitz, Patricia; Ziobron, Melissa; Zoni, David

March 20, 2013

Raised Bill SB-1064: AN ACT CONCERNING THE ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION IN NURSING HOMES BY CERTAIN NURSE'S AIDES

I am submitting my **OPPOSITION** to SB-1064 for the following reasons, and urge you to do the same.

While I can certainly agree that we have some wonderfully responsible CNA's who can be trained to properly administer medication in the long term care setting, the limited education is detrimental to the industry as a whole, and serves only to benefit the on-going cost cutting measures for nursing home owners.

If passed this bill will put possibly hundreds of experienced Licensed Practical Nurses in the unemployment line, as nursing homes will opt for the lower compensated aide.

LPN employment in Connecticut has systematically been limited to the nursing home, due to the outdated, and frankly, disrespectful LPN Scope of Practice; even while LPN schools/programs continue to graduate new nurses.

As a licensed nurse practicing for 35 years, at no time has the Board of Nursing acknowledged, or allowed for expanded certifications in specified areas of practice. While we are encouraged to continually expand our knowledge base with ongoing education; and required to complete mandatory in-servicing by our employers as outlined by the state; and are able to obtain, on our own, certifications in areas such as wound care, infection control, quality assurance and others; none of this education or certifications are considered for advancement, or required. As a matter of fact, due to my scope of practice as written by the state of Connecticut, I have no critical thinking skills, and cannot be trusted to take a telephone order from a doctor.

http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/phho/nursing_board/guidelines/lpndeclaratoryruling.pdf

http://www.ct.gov/dph/LIB/dph/practitioner_licensing_and_investigations/plis/nursing/Chapter_378_nursing.pdf

Considering the staggering amount of regulation pertaining to medication administration in nursing homes, how can having a less educated discipline have a positive effect on patient care? It will not... it only serves to benefit the facility's bottom line.

Nursing homes throughout region face fines for care lapses Read more:

<http://www.ctpost.com/local/article/Nursing-homes-throughout-region-face-fines-for-4355578.php#ixzz2O5biyq1G>

Impact of Payment Reductions: <http://www.aqnhc.org/pdfs/care-context-2012-03.pdf>

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Morrell".

Bridgeport, Connecticut