

Good afternoon. My name is Joan Dobbins. I am a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist and I speak in favor of **Raised bill 898**.

I am the Program Director of the Nurse Anesthesia Program affiliated with Central Connecticut State University and Hartford Hospital. I have been a Program Director for over 20 years.

Our students currently receive a Master of Science degree. Going forward, the national accrediting agency is requiring that all entry-level nurse anesthetist education be at the Practice Doctorate level. That is why we are here today. This Practice Doctorate requirement reflects back to the National Institute of Medicine's recommendation that all Nursing education be upgraded and improved. Everyone here knows that health care grows more complex every day and that our population is not only aging and becoming more fragile, but many more people are requiring health care services. A Practice Doctorate will only make us better healthcare practitioners.

In summary: Nurse anesthetists are Advanced Practice Nurses. This bill will allow us to raise our level of education to meet national accrediting standards as well as to meet the needs and expectations of our society.

I am happy to answer any questions you may have.