

Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee Testimony
Carol Ekonomides- Medical Examining Board
Tuesday, February 23, 2016

Good day Senator Duff, Representative Janowski, Senator Kane, Representative Buck-Taylor and members of the Executive and Legislative Nominations committee. My name is Carol Ekonomides and it is an honor and privilege to be appointed as a member of the Connecticut Medical Examining Board by Governor Dannel P. Malloy.

My sincere thanks to this committee for the opportunity to appear before you to speak to my desire to serve on the Connecticut Medical Examining Board.

I would like to share a little of personal background. I grew up in Steubenville, Ohio, a steel town thirty five miles west of Pittsburgh. The steel mill was the major employer in that area until recently when foreign competition forced the closure. My family included parents, grandmother and two sisters who work in health care as a physical therapists and nurse. I attended the Franciscan University of Steubenville and graduated with a BS in biology/medical technology. After graduation in 1969, I was invited to spend the summer in Connecticut and have not left.

While working at Yale New Haven Hospital as a medical technologist, I learned about the physician assistant profession. It peaked my interest. After researching this new profession, I decided to apply, and was accepted to the Yale University Physician Associate Program graduating in 1978.

This new profession had many obstacles to overcome i.e., legislation, patient and physician acceptance, insurance reimbursement and a niche in health care. Being on the ground level of this new career was exciting and challenging. I became active in the Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants and held numerous offices including president and representative to the American Academy of Physician Assistants House of Delegates. The focus was to garner support with our legislators in order to pass legislation that would permit practicing in Connecticut.

Through the diligent work of many, the profession has succeeded and continues to increase in number.

My entire career was spent at Danbury Hospital (WCHN) in emergency medicine, primary care/internal medicine and lastly hospital medicine. During those thirty seven years, I have mentored physician assistant students, medical students, medical residents, and new physician assistant employees. I also served as Adjunct faculty at the Yale and Quinnipiac University's Physician Assistant Programs. In addition to full time patient care, I served on various committees, most recently the Credentialing.

My career has been long and rewarding and has provided experience in dealing with administrators, adapting to constant changes in quality metrics, staying current with medical education while keeping the patient as the primary focus. Although, I recently retired, I am very committed to this profession and feel that my experience has value. My years of experience with the profession will provide the background needed to evaluate cases that are brought before the committee. In addition, being retired allows me the flexibility to attend meetings.

Thank you for giving me your consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.