

Testimony on Raised Bill No. 5014
By Davina Dube, Family Nurse Practitioner student
To
Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement

Mr. Chairman and committee members, thank you for accepting my written testimony. My name is Davina Dube and I am a registered nurse and family nurse practitioner student at the University of Saint Joseph. I am writing to you in regards to a bill that will establish a tax credit for providers of clinical nursing experiences.

As a family nurse practitioner student I can only emphasize the importance of this bill that will allow students like myself to no longer have to compete in providing monetary compensation to our preceptors. As students we are required to obtain vital clinical experience to become competent and effective healthcare providers, however gaining this clinical experience has proven to be a struggle for a majority of nursing students like myself. As a registered nurse I love my profession because I get the satisfaction of providing holistic care to my patients that positively impacts every domain of their life, which is why I decided to go back to school further my education and pursue the dream of becoming a nurse practitioner. Going to graduate school is a challenge in every sense; balancing the work, school, and home life including the financial burdens were demands I was ready to accept, but I did not foresee how difficult it would be to gain a clinical education with an appropriate preceptor. In the state on Connecticut there is a great deal of competition for preceptors; there are 12 nursing programs in state that does not include medical schools, and physician assistant programs. It is often the case that medical school and physician assistant program students offer more monetary incentive to preceptors; these monetary incentives come from increasing student's already ballooning tuition fees. At the University of saint Joseph nurse practitioner students pay a clinical placement fee that is used to incentivize preceptors, this fee is added on to our tuition. I am aware that as nurse practitioner students we are in competition with other monetary incentives offered by medical and physician assistant students. This is a cruel practice that puts emphasis on the dollar amount offered versus the academic merits and potential of students looking for a clinical education.

I am in my last semester of my program and I can say from personal experience looking for clinical placement during these past semesters has been immensely stressful. Knowing that if I failed to find a preceptor I would fall behind in my program and not graduate on time putting my dream a little further out of reach. Speaking to my fellow peers and co-workers, who are in nurse practitioner programs, all voiced the same concerns these past few semesters. As I prepare to graduate I feel that nursing students should not be burdened with extra costs as we struggle to pay our tuition fees and in the process garner debt to be able to serve as healthcare providers to our communities and state.

Thank you for allowing me to give this written testimony.

Testimony submitted by:

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