

Yale School of Nursing

To: Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee of the
Connecticut General Assembly

From: Erin Morelli, MSN, CNM, CLC
5 Redcoat Lane
Trumbull, CT 06611

Re: Public Testimony for H.B. 5014 An Act Establishing a Tax Credit
Providers of Clinical Nursing Experiences

Date: February 12, 2019

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EFM*
Lecturer and Clinical Faculty
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Dear Connecticut Lawmakers,

I am writing in support of H.B. 5014 An Act Establishing A Tax Credit for Providers of Clinical Nursing Experiences. This policy is critical for ensuring high quality preceptors for nursing students in Connecticut. I am a Certified Nurse-Midwife and on faculty at Yale School of Nursing. I teach nursing and nurse-midwifery students. We rely on registered nurses, nurse-midwives, and advanced practice registered nurses to work with our students.

Preceptors are the ones who work with the students each day and night in the clinical setting. They guide the trembling hands of new students as they learn how to insert foley catheters and learn how to interpret lab results and make evidence-based clinical management plans for patients. Preceptors are the ones who lead the way and support our students as they do their first prenatal visits and listen to babies' fetal hearts. These instrumental providers of clinical nursing experiences sit side by side with our students when they learn how to do charting to document the care they have been given. They lend an ear when students need to process their emotions and their learning. They do all of this with no reimbursement. They do this because they know that we need to train the next generation of care providers

These preceptors prepare their charts the night before and determine which patients are best for a students' clinical experiences. They bring a welcoming demeanor and a patient attitude when it takes students longer to accomplish tasks during the day. These preceptors stay late and work with students on their critical thinking. Then, they complete evaluation forms so the educational programs know how the student is progressing. When all is going well, that's the scope of their work. But, when a student is struggling, they expend even more effort helping develop their remediation plan with the school and then facilitating that plan.

In addition, they trust that these students will go forth and hopefully precept the next generation, and so on, and so forth. Standard office visits used to be 30-60 minutes depending on the types of visit, now, due to the current healthcare climate, office visits are 10-30 minutes. Clinicians who used to have time to finish charting before they saw the next patient are now burdened with a heavier clinical load and also are teaching a student during the day. They do so with a smile and in return sometimes the student writes a nice card or bakes some cookies. We like the cards the most. They mean a lot when a student is grateful for the time the preceptor has invested in them. Preceptors love when a student succeeds and ends up working side by side with them as a colleague. But, the reality is, it would be so meaningful if the State of Connecticut would also recognize the value that preceptors add to the education of our future healthcare workforce with a tax credit.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Erin M. Morelli". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

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