

HB 5014: An Act Establishing a Tax Credit for Providers of Clinical Nursing Experiences

Co-Chairs Haddad and Haskell and Members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee,

My name is Lisa Rebesch and I am the Associate Dean in the School of Nursing at Quinnipiac University. The School of Nursing has an enrollment of over 1000 students in our undergraduate and graduate programs. As a practice discipline, high quality clinical educational experiences are imperative as we prepare the next generation of nursing professionals.

I am writing to express my support for HB 5014. This bill will be instrumental in accessing the necessary number of preceptors for students who are training to be advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs), registered nurses (RNs), and certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs). As the current Associate Dean here at QU and previous Chairperson of Nursing at Southern Connecticut State University, I can attest to the enormous challenge of securing high quality clinical sites due to an inadequate number of preceptors. Most recently, programs have begun to provide a small stipend to preceptors as an incentive. In fact, last year's costs at QU School of Nursing for APRN and CRNA preceptors exceeded \$131,000. However, this strategy is not sustainable as the escalating costs of preceptor stipends cannot be absorbed by either private or public institutions without passing these costs to students who already face high costs for their education and a growing amount of student debt. As a result of the challenges of identifying the necessary numbers of clinical preceptors, programs such as ours are limited in the number of qualified applicants we can accept into our Family Nurse Practitioner, Adult Gerontology Nurse Practitioner, and Nurse Anesthesia programs. Despite the growing need and projected future shortages of advanced practice nurses, the lack of adequate numbers of preceptors severely hampers our ability to meet projected workforce needs.

At the undergraduate level, baccalaureate nursing students often complete a capstone course during their final semester of study. As an advanced standing student, they work alongside a baccalaureate prepared Registered Nurse preceptor. Identifying adequate numbers of preceptors for this purpose is often challenging. The tax credit may serve as a further incentive for RNs who work with students during their final semester while students transition from the student role to the RN role. Again, with the projected future shortage of Registered Nurses in the State of Connecticut, preceptors are instrumental as nursing programs prepare RNs for the workforce.

According to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), nursing schools in the US turned away more than 75,000 qualified applicants from undergraduate and graduate nursing

programs in 2018¹. One of the main reasons cited was the insufficient number of clinical sites and preceptors. In order to meet the healthcare needs in our state, we must be able to incentivize preceptors. In a 2017 national survey of randomly selected Nurse Practitioners, results revealed that financial incentives were viewed as the most important factor they considered by preceptors². HB 5014 establishes a tax credit for providers of clinical nursing experiences and can serve this purpose.

Respectfully submitted by,



Lisa M. Rebesch, PhD, MSN, RN, CNE
Associate Dean & Professor

¹ American Association of Colleges of Nursing. (April, 2019). Fact sheet: Nursing faculty shortage. Retrieved from <https://www.aacnnursing.org/Portals/42/News/Factsheets/Faculty-Shortage-Factsheet.pdf>

² Roberts, M., Wheeler, K., Tyler, D., & Padden, D. (2017). Precepting nurse practitioner students: A new view – results of two national surveys of nurse practitioner preceptors. *Journal of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners*, 29, 484-491.