

I am writing in support of HB 5014: An Act of Establishing A Tax Credit For Providers of Clinical Nursing Experiences. I am not able to be physically present at the hearing, but would like to submit written testimony.

My name is Sarah Wheeler and I am a clinical preceptor for Yale School of Nursing and Yale School of Medicine. I have a midwifery and/or resident with me during almost all of my outpatient and inpatient clinical working hours. Nursing students and medical residents need preceptors who are committed to their learning and are able to give these learners careful attention and guidance. As a preceptor I work side-by-side with the learners and both observe and do hands-on work with them, providing feedback as needed and evaluating their clinical skills. The preceptor must balance the teaching component with patient care, satisfaction and safety. As you may imagine, this can be very challenging at times.

There are many things that you as the preceptor have to do that are above the scope of practice for the student, so not only am I managing my patient load, but I also have to watch over every little thing the student does, read every note they write, evaluate every judgment call - as I am ultimately responsible for the outcomes.

Preceptors do not receive any benefits from doing this demanding job. As part of the Yale Health System, we are as teaching institution and expected to always be teaching. Being a preceptor is rewarding work, however it is also time-consuming and emotionally/mentally/physically draining. There has been a great decline in the number of people willing to be preceptors in practices in our community due to the lack of incentive, financial or otherwise, and the drain on time and resources. This has been an issue causing a lack of continuity for students in being able to work with the same preceptor for each shift, and in turn raising concerns about patient safety and knowledge deficits in our students and residents.

In summary, providing an incentive for precepting could greatly cause this to turn around - influencing both the longevity of preceptors and the satisfaction and clinical preparedness of the learners.

I am in support of HB 5014. Thank you for considering this important bill.

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