
CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES

July 6, 2009

The Connecticut Association of Public Health Nurses (CAPHN) joins with other professional nursing organizations and individual nurses to voice opposition to the proposed increase in nursing licensure fees. Doubling the licensure fees will create a serious financial burden for many nurses in the state, as well as impact the already serious nursing shortage. In addition, it may very well leave us with fewer nurses to respond in a public health emergency.

Fees for a Registered Nurse(RN)license would increase from \$100 to \$200 per year, and for a Licensed Practical Nurse(LPN)from \$60 to \$120. This dramatic increase will be difficult enough for full-time working nurses. However, there are many nurses who work per-diem, part-time, or as substitute nurses and, for them, the increase is a serious financial burden.

In addition, there are many retired nurses who wish to retain their licenses because they are proud to be part of the profession. These RN's are willing to be active participants in emergency response teams, such as the Medical Reserve Corps. These nurses assist in vaccination (annual flu) clinics and participate in various trainings to maintain their skill competence. We are concerned that the increased cost of licensure will prohibit these experts from maintaining a license and volunteering to help our state in an emergency.

The proposed increase in professional licensure fees may have an even greater impact on Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs). APRNs must maintain both an RN and an APRN license - their fees would total \$440 with the increase. These fees are in addition to the significant cost of liability insurance and fees for certifications that allow them to practice and prescribe medications. APRNs are seen as one solution in the current healthcare reform initiatives at the federal level, yet your proposal creates barriers to their practice at the state level

Since nurses' licensing fees were increased within the last two years, an increase at this time causes an unreasonable burden for nurses. CAPHN considers this an unacceptable option for addressing the State's budget shortfall, and hope that you will respect our position in your final decision.

Respectfully,
Monica K. Wheeler, MSN, RN
President