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Testimony for Senate Bill 13
Certified Nursing Assistants – Certificate Renewal – Training Program Requirements
January 26, 2021

Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present Senate Bill 13: Certified Nursing Assistants – Certificate Renewal – Training Program Requirements, which alters the requirements for nursing assistants to renew their certificates.

Currently, certified nursing assistants (CNAs) and geriatric nursing assistants (GNAs) can renew their certifications if they have completed 16 hours of active nursing assistant practice within the 2-year period immediately preceding the date of renewal *OR* an approved nursing assistant training program. This requirement leads to long delays for nursing assistants who have let their certificates lapse in the past and have not practiced within two years, as they are required to complete a 100 hour program, consisting 60 hours didactic training and 40 hours of clinical training.

Senate Bill 13 allows the Board of Nursing to create approved “refresher” courses for those nursing assistants, who have been certified in the past, but who may have let their certificates expire for over 2 years. The “refresher” courses will expedite the process of returning them to the healthcare workforce. During the COVID-19 Pandemic, this issue has become significant as we struggle to meet the healthcare demand and replenish our exhausted workforces.

Thank you for your consideration and I respectfully ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 13.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Addie C. Eckardt".

Senator Addie C. Eckardt