



THE HOSPITAL & HEALTHSYSTEM
ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA

Testimony

Submitted on behalf of The Hospital &
Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania

H.B. 2727
Health Care Practitioner Identification
Badge Act

Before the
House Professional Licensure Committee

Presented by
Mary Marshall
Director, Workforce and Professional Development

Philadelphia, PA
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The Hospital & Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania (HAP) represents and advocates for more than 250 hospitals and health systems in the commonwealth, as well as the patients and the communities that they serve. We appreciate the opportunity to express our view regarding House Bill 2727, known as the Health Care Practitioner Identification Badge Act.

This proposed legislation seeks to provide a uniform standard in health care settings by which patients can be apprised of the identity and licensure credentials of individuals who provide health care services to them.

It should be noted that in order to enable the public to recognize and understand the qualifications of the health care professionals providing their care, the Department of Health enacted regulations during 1998 which require all Pennsylvania hospitals to properly identify personnel. These regulations are:

28 PA Code §51.6. Identification of personnel.

(a) When working in a health care facility and when clinically feasible, the following individuals shall wear an identification tag which displays that person's name and professional designation:

(1) Health care practitioners licensed or certified by Commonwealth agencies.

(2) Health care providers employed by health care facilities.

(b) The identification tag shall include the individual's full name. Abbreviated professional designations may be used only when the designation indicates licensure or certification by a Commonwealth agency, otherwise the full title shall be printed on the tag.

(c) The last name of the individual may be omitted or concealed when treating patients who exhibit symptoms of irrationality or violence.

Adherence to these regulations is enforced by the Department of Health through its survey process. The Department of Health does not dictate the format, allowing hospitals to implement this requirement, which you will hear more about.

In response to the requirements outlined in House Bill 2727 indicating that the practitioner's licensing board should have the responsibility of issuing an identification badge, it should be noted that there is not currently a structure in place within each licensing board to provide for the required photograph of the practitioner. This provision may result in undue costs in order to implement. In addition, the possibility exists for different badges to be adopted by different boards, resulting in inconsistent practices regarding identification within hospitals making identification more difficult for patients.

HAP does not support this legislation since there already are uniform requirements for hospitals through the Department of Health. This legislation will duplicate a process already in place and could lead to conflicting identification processes that could jeopardize patient safety. The accountability of identifying health care practitioners in a hospital appropriately rests with the hospital under the purview of the Department of Health.

To illustrate how hospitals fulfill this accountability, we've asked one of our member hospitals to join us today so that they can share with you how they meet the current requirements in their facility.

At this time, I'd like to introduce Eugene Zegar, vice president of human resources, at Crozer-Chester Medical Center located in Springfield, Pennsylvania.

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