

PSNA

Pennsylvania State
Nurses Association

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October 8, 2008

Honorable P. Michael Sturla
PA House of Representatives
House Box 202096
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2096

Re: Public Hearing on House Bill 2727

Dear Representative Sturla:

I would like to thank you and the other distinguished members of the House Professional Licensure Committee for permitting the Pennsylvania State Nurses Association (PSNA) to submit comments in regard to HB 2727.

PSNA is a statewide association representing the professional interests of Pennsylvania's 205,000 registered nurses. PSNA's mission is to represent all professional nursing interests while at the same time protecting the health, safety and welfare of our patients.

In Pennsylvania, we have witnessed an increased complexity in the healthcare delivery system through a proliferation of titles and settings in which healthcare is provided. The titles and associated roles can be extremely confusing to our patients. PSNA agrees with our physician colleagues that patients have the right to know who is caring for them and the qualifications/licensure that the health care provider possesses. In fact, the purpose of professional licensing is to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public from fraudulent and unqualified practitioners.

Patients must be able to quickly and easily determine the qualifications/licensure of those that provide care. House Bill 2727 would accomplish this by requiring all health care providers to wear an identification badge that contains their name, photograph, license and certificate/registration.

I would like to thank the distinguished members of this committee for the careful consideration of legislative initiatives that would protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of this Commonwealth. HB 2727, in conjunction with HBs 2715 and 2716, will go a long way to improving the overall patient safety of the healthcare delivery system.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,



Betsy Snook, M.Ed., BSN, RN
Chief Executive Officer