

May 18, 2007

Ann Steffanic
Board Administrator
State Board of Nursing
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2007 MAY 21 PM 2:32

STATE BOARD
OF NURSING

To: State Board of Nursing:

Re: PA Bulletin #07-743; Regulation ID#16A-5130

I would like to express the following comments with regards to the proposed regulations for continuing education for registered nurses.

Section 21.29

I support these changes in the license renewal process.

Section 21.131- 134


I request the board to give additional consideration to nurses practicing outside of the traditional hospital setting. I am a registered nurse working in public schools and there are many courses outside nursing such as health, physical fitness or educational aspects that would be very appropriate and beneficial to my daily work.

Section 21.5

I find the \$75.00 fee per hour for continuing education hours to be exorbitant. To have to pay an additional \$2250.00 every two years (in addition to paying for the course or continuing education hour to take it) every two years to renew a license is outlandish and counterproductive to the goal of encouraging nurses to increase their knowledge base. I do not make the kind of money to be able to afford those fees. My husband is a professional who has a renewable license and does not pay anything close to that amount for his license renewal. Our country is experiencing a nursing crisis that is predicted to get worse as the population ages and retires (along with many of our currently working nurses). To add this extra burden will certainly cause increased hardship and may even cause valuable nurses to leave the field. If I would have to pay such high fees (along with additional added expenses of taking the initial continuing education hours), it will definitely cause me to rethink my profession. Many of our human service fields do not have the pay levels that other predominantly male professions obtain. If continuing education hours are already approved by the instructors offering them, I don't understand why there are additional fees that perform that same function again.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on these proposed regulations.

Sincerely,



Karla M. Witmer, RN

2007 MAY 29 AM 10:17
INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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