

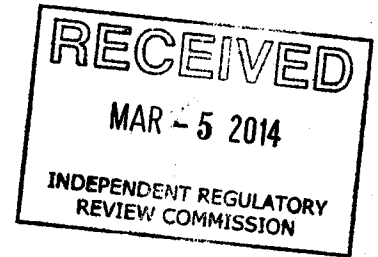


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THE HOSPITAL & HEALTHSYSTEM ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA

March 3, 2014

Ann Michele Coughlin, Chair
Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing
Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs
P.O. Box 2649
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649



RE: Proposed Regulations—Continuing Education and Reporting of Criminal and Disciplinary Actions

Dear Ms. Coughlin:

The Hospital & Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania (HAP), on the behalf of its approximately 240 member hospitals and health systems, appreciates the opportunity to comment about the State Board of Nursing's proposed regulations related to registered nurse continuing education requirements and the reporting requirements for registered and practical nurses regarding criminal and disciplinary actions taken against their licenses. These proposed regulations were published in the February 1, 2014, edition of the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

HAP appreciates the Board's desire to implement a procedure for continuing education compliance identical to that applied by the other licensing boards within the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs. Additionally, HAP appreciates the Board's efforts to standardize the requirements for reporting criminal and disciplinary actions to the Board for both registered and practical nurses.

HAP believes that the Board's intent is to ensure the provision of quality and safe care for Pennsylvania's patients and supports these amendments to current regulation.

If you have any questions about HAP's comments, please feel free to contact Mary Marshall, director, workforce and professional services at (717) 561-5312, or me at (717) 561-5344.

Sincerely,

Paula A. Bussard
Senior Vice President
Policy and Regulatory Services

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