

Colleagues,

Despite the snow and rain, it was a busy day. SVFT President Rick Tanasi gave testimony about the LPN program in a conference with Senate President Don Williams, and two groups of LPN instructors gave testimony in a public hearing on another floor of the Capitol. It seems as though the idea of providing loans to alleviate the financial cost to the State is gaining quite a bit of traction. We will continue to push this idea to the State; it seems the best way to match legislator's actions to their words. Even the Governor's spokesperson left the door open; we thank Elizabeth Jenkins Donahue for supplying us with the link. We will have more on the testimony and questioning of the LPN instructors tomorrow. Anyone interested in reading the testimony should go to www.SVFT.org, where it is listed in the LPN section. Tomorrow is also the PAC meeting; anyone who can spare the evening is welcome to attend.

Tomorrow will also mark a new attempt at organizing for us. Eric Bailey from AFT-CT will be in the office tomorrow to set up Facebook pages about our fight to save the LPN program. We believe that Facebook will allow us to tap into the thousands upon thousands of people whose lives you have helped transform. Tell your students that we should have a Facebook page up by noon tomorrow. Included will be a link that will allow anyone to email the Governor, and a chance for people to tell how the LPN program has helped them. Our goal is to organize the people we have missed, the alumni, and involve a broader range of people into the fight. Anyone who does not have a Facebook account will be advised to sign up for one. I want to make sure I have the details correct before I elaborate; we know clearly what we want, and Eric knows how to make it happen, but we want to have it up and running before we give too many details. We may advertise on the site to help reach out to your graduates.

We still need to know who has been contacted; thank you for everyone who has provided that information. We're just starting this fight.