

Colleagues,

Our vote is coming up: Jennifer says that our bill should be coming out of the Education Committee on Tuesday, but we need to start writing to our local senators and representative. Eric Bailey has sent us the link [http://www.unionvoice.org/campaign/lpn\\_program?rk=3dahv8FqJ9zkE](http://www.unionvoice.org/campaign/lpn_program?rk=3dahv8FqJ9zkE) to help us in our efforts. Wednesday proved rather uneventful – the 3 LPN instructors who are on Teacher’s Retirement will be allowed to continue – but we did get to speak to a few legislators, all of whom are supportive. That does not mean we should forget about writing our letters to our representatives; we have not won until everyone who wants to return is standing in front of a group of students.

Below is a message sent out by AFT Political Action Spokesman Terri Merisotis:

## **LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT**

**If you have any questions or receive a response back please e-mail Teri Merisotis at [tmerisotis@aftct.org](mailto:tmerisotis@aftct.org).**

### **Restore the LPN Program**

Gov. M. Jodi Rell suspended the state's adult education program for licensed practical nurses as part of her cuts to reduce the budget deficit. The program was offered at 10 state technical high schools, and produces about 350 LPNs every 16 months. The cut affected about 400 students, as well as 44 teachers.

The program was making a difference in the nursing shortage as well as providing an economical avenue for people in our state to become employed with gainful, steady, long-term employment.

Since the closing of the programs, the instructors have been placed in various jobs within state agencies. Not only were they placed in different jobs, they were placed there at significantly higher salaries. This is a huge cost to the state.

The Labor Committee voted S.B. 171 An Act Reestablishing a Licensed Practical Nurse Program to the Education Committee. This bill would transfer funds from the General Fund to the Department of Education for the administration of licensed practical nursing programs at the regional vocational-technical schools.

Contact the Chairs of the Education Committee and your own State Senator and Representative and ask them to support S.B. 171 to reestablish the Licensed Practice Nurse Program at the Regional Vocation-Technical School.

**Co-Chairs:**

Senator Gaffey 860-240-0425 or [gaffey@senatedems.ct.gov](mailto:gaffey@senatedems.ct.gov)

Representative Fleischmann 860-240-0420 or [Andrew.fleischmann@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Andrew.fleischmann@cga.ct.gov)

The message was sent not just to us, but to Labor leaders throughout the State. The point is not to contact Senator Gaffey or Representative Fleischman – they are already on board – but to show that the process we started after Thanksgiving continues. Our cause is right, our cause makes sense, and our cause will win, but we need to make sure everyone is contacted. We will be in touch next week when we have more information, and feel free to contact us. We'll see you soon.

In Solidarity,

Rick, Jan, and Ed