

Representative Mushinsky,

As a citizen of Connecticut, and the daughter-in-law of a 92 year lady who needs round the clock care, I am very concerned about the recent news regarding the Licensed Practical Nurse adult education program offered at Connecticut's vocational-technical high schools. This is a vitally important program to our state's economy and public health. Given the shortage of health care workers and the aging population this program is very important to the well being of our state. The need for these LPNs is evidenced by the state department of labor, and that need will only continue to grow as Connecticut's population continues to age.

The program is offered at 10 state technical high schools, and produces about 350 LPNs every 16 months. The 350 LPNs who come out of this program every 16 months, become well paid, tax paying members of our communities, that provide quality patient care in our many nursing homes and hospitals. If this program is cut, we will likely see a dramatic drop in the number of LPNs in nursing homes and hospitals as well as a loss of tax revenue from these jobs.

The argument is made that students pay \$4,850 in tuition, about 20 percent of the full cost of the program. Three private schools offer LPN training in Connecticut, but at upwards of ten times the tuition rates. If the program is too costly as is, why does the option to increase the tuition not appear to be considered by the Governor?

I believe that students would be willing to pay more to be trained in a program with a proven track record like the Licensed Practical Nurse adult education program offered at Connecticut's vocational-technical high schools. This program has a 100% placement rate of its graduates. Many adults in our state do not get advanced job training right after high school for a variety of reasons, this Vo-Tech Adult Ed LPN program is a win-win for the those adults and the state.

Thank you for time attention to my concerns,

Cheryl Christie Collett

Wallingford, CT