

Senator Prague,

Here are the bulleted points about the financial impact of eliminating the LPN program we have made:

- The \$1.7 million figure in saving the Governor claims for the rest of the fiscal year by eliminating the LPN program must refer to salaries – there is no other significant expenditure for the program. That figure would reflect \$38,636 in salary per employee for slightly more than half the year for 44 employees, which is a reasonable figure.
- However, 39 of the 44 teachers have SEBAC job protection rights, guaranteeing no layoffs until July, 2011. The five who do not have SEBAC protection are the five lowest paid of the 44. The savings are closer to \$150,000 than \$1.7 million.
- The salaries of the remaining 39 employees are based on a 188-day work year. Prorated to a 240-day work year used in agencies in which these employees would be placed, the \$1.55 million in salaries for the remaining 39 teachers would cost the State just under \$1.98 million.
- The State would also lose approximately \$560,000 in tuition from the 350 students who would have entered the program. The State also would have to refund the \$50 application fee to nearly 1000 applicants.
- Overall, eliminating the program would cost almost the State almost \$1 million more than running the program in this fiscal year alone.
- The long-term cost is of course even greater. Many if not most of the LPN students move from various forms of State assistance to become State taxpayers. If fees were raised to \$10,000, which would still make our tuition less than 1/3 of many of the private programs, the State would recoup its investment in each graduate within seven years in income tax alone.

We would be glad to discuss our position with anyone. The SVFT phone number is 1-800-378-8020