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Chair Government Relations Committee
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Senator Maroney, Representative D'Agostino, Senator Witkos, Representative Cheeseman and the distinguished members of the General Law Committee

I am representing the Connecticut Association of Nurse Anesthetists (CTANA). Thank you for the opportunity to address **SB 13, An Act Expanding Economic Opportunity in Licensed Occupations**. There is much merit in this bill for those holding professional licenses. As it is written, we support sections 1, 6 and 8. There are many professionals within healthcare that will benefit if these changes are enacted into law. In Connecticut, there are over 470 Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) and it is estimated that as our population ages, the need will be met by the four schools that train the new generation of CRNAs.

Section 1, would establish digital license applications for all licenses and renewals for all professions and occupations. This not only decreases cost to the state in materials to print the renewal notices and other notices but saves postal fees. In addition, it is eco-friendly. CRNAs must renew both their RN and their APRN licenses on an annual basis. This is also required of our other APRN colleagues which their numbers are closer to five thousand. The amount of resources needed to accomplish just licenses is staggering.

Section 6, the goal is to establish consistent processes to review an application for licensure that is fair to all. People who have fulfilled their obligations of their criminal sentences should not be excluded from their profession. Farther penalizing them within the system has the potential to decrease the workforce in much needed areas such as nursing.

Section 8, that outlines the criteria to obtain a license in this state makes great strides in making the process of licensure less cumbersome for those who have already held a license in another state and have had no blemishes on their record. Decreasing the steps and the time needed to obtain a professional license will do much to alleviate personnel shortages when the need arises. For the profession of nursing, there are national guidelines that must be achieved in order to be eligible to take a national exam, the NCLEX which guarantees a level of competency in the profession. This bill should give consider to permitting licensed nurses and advanced practice registered nurses to provide services in multiple states and remove the barriers of out of states nurses and APRNs. It has been the lengthy process of obtaining a professional license in this state that has discouraged professionals from re-locating to our state. Removing redundancy to the process will enhance our professional workforce and remove the state restrictions will comply with the goals set by the Institute of Medicine and the Federal

Trade Commission. Allowing all trained healthcare professional especially nurses and any of the four advanced practice registered nurses to practice to the full extent of their training and licensure.

Thank you for the opportunity to address SB 13 and add our support to the others.

Sincerely,

Donna M. Sanchez, DNP^c, APRN, CRNA

Connecticut Association of Nurse Anesthetists