

February 9, 2012

Senator Kathy Campbell
Health and Human Services Committee
P.O. Box 94604
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4604

Dear Senator Campbell and members of the committee:

I am writing to you in opposition to LB 1083 which makes revisions to the Nurse Practice act that would allow "home care provided for compensation or gratuitously by a parent, foster parent, family member, or friend if such person is a nurse and represents or hold himself or herself out to be a nurse and uses any designation in connection with his or her name which tends to imply that he or she is licensed to practice under the act."

Current law allows a licensed nurse to provide home care to family, foster children or friends, or from representing himself or herself as a nurse in doing so. We are concerned that the language in this bill would allow an individual to be licensed as a nurse without meeting the requirements of licensure in the Nurse Practice Act. Any licensed nurse practicing as a nurse regardless of whom they are providing nursing care, whether for compensation or gratuitously, must practice in accordance with the act.

Quite simply, if you are holding yourself out as a licensed professional, paid or not, you should be subject to the standards of that practice under the UCA.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,



Joann Schaefer, M.D.
Chief Medical Officer
Director, Division of Public Health
Department of Health and Human Services