



February 20, 2020

Business and Labor Committee
Utah State Legislative Committee

RE: S.B. 127 Nursing Licensing Amendments

Thank you for spending your valuable time hearing the concern of Stevens-Henager College, founded in 1891, with a nursing program for non-traditional students who deserve to be nurses.

The Nurse Practice Act 58-31b-601 Minimum Standards for Nursing Programs – (b) reads “A program under Subsection (2)(a) may qualify graduates for licensure under Subsection (2) (A) until December 31, 2020. On or after January 1, 2021, a nursing education program that is not an approved education program under Subsection (1) may not qualify graduates for licensure under this chapter.”

Due to difficulty with the accreditation of its Governing Board, the Center for Excellence in Higher Education, the A.D.N. nursing program has been unable to schedule a visit of its programmatic accreditor for initial accreditation (NLN-CNEA). Upon clearing the accreditation of the Governing Board, the program will schedule its visit and become accredited programmatically. We need more time as this will not occur prior to December 31, 2020.

For this purpose, we are asking the Committee for approval of S.B. 127 which opens the Nurse Practice Act, and on line 41, changes the dates from December 31, 2020 to December 31, 2022. The ramifications of not approving this change will result in the College closing its nursing program and displacing its current students. In addition, the language rules against any new programs in nursing coming into the State and/or causing existing programs that experience difficulty in their reaccreditation process not being able to help their graduates license as R.N.s in Utah. This would create a nursing shortage for Utah.

For this purpose, we urge the Committee to vote positively for the proposed change and to move the bill forward. Thank you for your consideration.

Eric S. Juhlin, CEO
Center for Excellence in Higher Education

Vicky L. Dewsnup, President
Stevens-Henager College, West Haven, Utah

MARIANNE CRAVEN, PHD, MN, RN

6036 SOUTH 2075 EAST, HOVLAND, UT 84121-1422

Mr. Greg Bell, President/CEO
Utah Hospital Association
2180 South 1300 East, Suite 440
Salt Lake City, UT 84106

January 23, 2020

Dear Mr. Bell,

I am writing you to express my desire that the Utah Nurse Practice Act be opened during the upcoming legislative session or as soon as possible and have the Utah State Board of Nursing be given oversight for nursing education programs once again. I am an interested party through a number of professional roles – I am currently a member of Stevens Henager College's (SHC) Nursing Professional Advisory Committee, a nurse educator, and an accreditation site visitor.

I express this desire over an ongoing concern that schools who do not receive accreditation are inhibited without having a state regulatory agency to support them once denied. Schools can be denied accreditation for any number of reasons and students are placed at an extreme disadvantage when institutions are denied accreditation for whatever reason.

The SHC nursing program is working diligently to promote quality, appropriate education for their students. The SHC nursing program has been unable to obtain accreditation (a condition out of the nursing program's control) within the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing's mandate of December 2020. The institution may need to close the program if they are not provided some kind of waiver. Students who have paid significant money into their education may not be able to license in Utah from this institution. I have a difficult time accepting this for a school who is working to produce qualified nurses and has demonstrated an acceptable pass-rate on the National Council Licensure Examination over the past few years.

I also want to state that the current nurse practice act is not current in the list of acceptable nursing-accreditation agencies that are approved by the United States Department of Education. Therefore, according to the Utah Nurse Practice Act Rule (in effect October 1, 2019), students from SCH could still be considered non-compliant because SHC is seeking accreditation from an agency not recognized by the Utah Nurse Practice Act. Most schools in Utah would be under the same condemnation since the Nurse Practice Act is outdated. Could these students also be denied opportunity to license in Utah? Could the schools be closed because they are not compliant with the nurse practice act? That presents an interesting dilemma in my mind.

I ask that you speak in support of revising the Utah Nurse Practice Act as soon as possible to provide the necessary support and oversight for nursing education in Utah.

Sincerely,



Marianne Craven, PhD, RN

Davis Hospital and Medical Center

A STEWARD FAMILY HOSPITAL



Mr. Greg Bell, President/CEO
Utah Hospital Association
2180 South 1300 East, Suite 440
Salt Lake City, UT 84106

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I ask that you speak in support of revising the Utah Nurse Practice Act as soon as possible to provide the necessary support and oversight for nursing education in Utah.

As a nursing coordinator in a local hospital it has been my privilege to hire and work with nurses who have graduated from SHC and they are professional and proficient in their practice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Jo Anne Allen'.

Jo Anne Allen, BSN, RN
PAC committee member SHC
Davis Hospital And Medical Center

Davis Hospital and Medical Center

1600 West Antelope Drive, Layton, Utah 84041 Tel: 801-807-1000 davishospital.org
In Partnership with Physician Owners

2/16/2020

Robert C Morris BSN RN
Director of Medical Surgical Intermediate Care
Brigham City Community Hospital
950 South Medical Drive
Brigham City, Utah 84321

To Whom It May Concern, I am writing you to express my desire that the Utah Nurse Practice Act be opened during the upcoming legislative session or as soon as possible and have the Utah State Board of Nursing be given over site for nursing education programs once again. I am an interested party through a number of professional roles -- I am currently a member of Stevens Henager College's (SHC) Nursing Professional Advisory Committee, and an acute care unit director. As a director I have been able to hire students from the SHC program and they have been high quality employees. SHC has done a great job to train their students and prepare them for a career in nursing.

I express this desire over an ongoing concern that schools who do not receive accreditation are inhibited without having a state regulatory agency to support them once denied. Schools can be denied accreditation for any number of reasons and students are placed at an extreme disadvantage when institutions are denied accreditation for whatever reason.

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Sincerely,

Robert C. Morris BSN RN
2/16/2020

February 15, 2020

Mrs. Dewsnup,

I am reaching out today as a concerned educator. There is a significant nurse shortage that is contributing to a much larger healthcare problem. I would like to see this problem improve through a supply of dedicated, skilled, and highly educated nurses. Currently, the State of Utah nursing programs are governed through national accrediting bodies and there is a limit as to the number of programs that can be implemented in our state. The Utah State Board of Nursing has been limited in their ability to help appropriate new programs and monitor current schools. I would like to express my concerns and have the Nurse Practice Acts of Utah reopened in the soonest legislative meeting. By reinstating the Nurse Practice Act, there can be a renewed ownership of nursing education across the state and help reduce the nursing shortage we are seeing and feeling. Please take this letter as a show of support for your school's initiative. You have my unwavering support.

Melissa Harpin

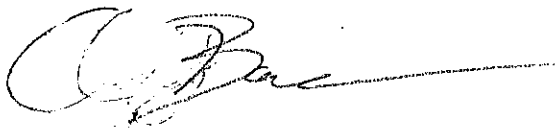
Melissa Harpin
Critical Care Coordinator

Vicky Dewsnup
President & Regional Director
Stevens-Henager College
1890 S. 1350 W.
Ogden UT, 84401

2/17/2020

Dear President Dewsnup,

I am writing this letter to express concerns over appropriate accreditation bodies in the state of Utah. As you are aware, the Utah State Board of Nursing is not affiliated with accreditation in the state that they were designed to help enforce standards of practice. As an educator of future nurses, I feel that this should be reconsidered, and the Utah Nurse Practice Acts be opened during the upcoming legislative session. I understand that Stevens-Henager College is spearheading an initiative to have the Utah Board of Nursing regain accrediting authority. I would like to dedicate my support to this cause as I feel it will help uplift the current state of nursing in our state and help educators produce the quality healthcare workers we desperately need. Thank you for your time and dedication to improving the healthcare climate.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Angie Bacon", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Angie Bacon MSN, RN
Nursing Educator and Clinical Instructor

February 14, 2020

Vicky Dewsnap
President and Regional Director
Stevens-Henager College
1890 South 1350 West
Ogden, UT 84401

Dear President Dewsnap,

I understand that Stevens-Henager College is taking a request to the legislative session this year to open the nurse practice acts and extend the accreditation time frame for nursing schools from the deadline of December 31, 2020 for an additional two more years. As a graduate of the Stevens-Henager nursing program in May of 2016, I am sending this letter in support of this bill.

The Steven's-Henager nursing program was life-changing for me and my family. As a mother of three young sons, without a degree or profession, it was very difficult to provide a stable financial life for my family. Steven's-Henager gave me the opportunity to continue my education and earn a degree as a professional, while still working to financially support my children. This was an opportunity that was not available to me at a University. I did not have the option to be financially supported by others, or attend day-time programs at that time in my life. Smaller colleges like Steven's Henager are a necessary option to keep available for working adults. After much research I found Steven's-Henager to be the right professional option for me. Steven's Henager provided a high quality education with a focus on professionalism for the working adult, while meeting all occupational and professional licensing requirements.

For the last four years I have worked as a full-time nurse, contributing, giving back to the community and providing for my family. I have been a member of Steven's-Henager's Nursing Professional Advisory Committee for three years, and have worked as a nursing preceptor to train graduates from multiple colleges and universities for two years. I have been awarded multiple nursing recognition awards for superior nursing knowledge and performance, including the Daisy Award at Ogden Regional Medical Center in March of 2019. This is all a product of an excellent professional education at Steven's-Henager College.

In addition, many nursing graduates I have trained in the field, have come from diverse nursing programs including multiple Universities. I have not seen a noticeable difference in education between the different students. Steven's-Henager students rise up and meet the rigorous standards of any University Graduate. I can also say that Steven's-Henager does an excellent job preparing their graduates to pass the NCLEX for nursing licensure. We had professors work with our graduating class for many months until they knew we were ready and prepared. It was intense preparation and

training that prepared us to pass the NCLEX the first time we took the test. They also helped us to build a professional network to launch our career as soon as we graduated. They work with each of their students on an individual basis in a way that cannot be offered at larger University's.

Accreditation was denied to many smaller Colleges for various reasons five years ago, including Steven's Henager. Many of those small colleges had to close their doors because they did not have a state regulatory agency to support them once they had received that denial. The Steven's-Henager nursing program has been unable to obtain accreditation again for reasons that are out of the nursing programs control. They need state regulatory support. They have done their part and are a strong, equal, and professional nursing program exceeding expectations. It would be a shame if this opportunity was not offered to others like myself in the future. Please do not let this happen to Steven's-Henager.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michelle List RN". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Michelle List RN

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT OUTCOME DATA

1. Associate Degree in Nursing Education Program has achieved the following National Council of State Board of Nursing exam (NCLEX-RN) pass rates: Pass rate is defined as at least 80% or higher than the national rate.

| Year | SHC Pass Rate | Utah Mean Pass Rate | National Mean Pass Rate |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 2017 | 76.9% | 85.5% | 87.1% |
| 2018 | 87.5% | 86.4% | 89.41% |
| 2019 | 66.9% | 84.87% | 88.18% |
| 3 Year Mean | 82.2% | 85.39% | 88.23% |

2. Number of students completing the SHC – Associate Degree in Nursing Education program: Completion rate is defined as at least 75% of students will complete the nursing course portion of the program within 16 months:

| Year | SHC Program Completion (Graduation) Rate |
|------|--|
| 2017 | 76.8% |
| 2018 | 90% |
| 2019 | 78% |

3. Job placement rate for graduates of SHC – Associate Degree in Nursing Education program: Employment rate is defined as at least 75% of students will be employed in the nursing profession or enrolled in an advanced degree program within 6 months of graduation.

| Year | SHC Program Placement Rate |
|------|----------------------------|
| 2017 | 83.7% |
| 2018 | 100% |
| 2019 | 71.8% |

4. Student satisfaction for graduates of SHC – Associate Degree in Nursing Education program: Student satisfaction rate is defined as 75% of the students will score of 90% or greater on the end of the course satisfaction survey.

| Year | Student Satisfaction |
|------|----------------------|
| 2017 | 97% |
| 2018 | 98.4% |
| 2019 | 97% |