

This testimony is in opposition to SB453.

Caring for vulnerable, elderly individuals is a very difficult job. The best caregivers have a HEART for the work and those workers are few and far between. On top of that, given the current wage of CNA's, the workers must have a second source of income in order to survive. Some people with HEART can't afford to do the work. A less qualified and trained worker will exacerbate this issue. The work will attract ONLY those who have a second source of income and/or simply use it as a default because they do not want to work in fast food. Elderly individuals deserve care from people, who are fully trained (by RN's), are committed to the work and who receive a living wage.

It is extremely important to define "in good standing" with regard to licensing, so that facilities and consumers are assured that they are getting the best caregivers. It is important to be able to obtain information regarding requirements for licensure in various states so that informed decisions can be made.

This bill will have a potentially damaging affect on our most vulnerable population, many of whom have no advocates. They depend on us to do our best in identifying qualified caregivers. SB453 defeats that purpose.

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