



United Nurse Reform

About Us

United Nurse Reform, formally **Connecticut Nurses for Reform and State Affiliates**, would like to bring the ongoing debate regarding our Country's Nursing Shortage and underutilization of [Licensed Practical Nurses](#) to the General Public. As health care advocates, we believe the Public has a right to Quality of Care in our hospitals and nursing homes, and that means being cared for by LICENSED staff.

We want the Public to be aware of how our Legislators are addressing the Nursing Shortage, and how qualified Licensed Nurses are being replaced in the health care setting with Unlicensed Personnel. As the cost of health care for Americans continues to sky-rocket, our Country's hospitals and nursing homes are cutting costs by hiring more and more Unlicensed Personnel.

Our goals are logical and straight-forward. To address our Country's Nursing Shortage through legislation enabling the thousands of Licensed Practical Nurses meet proposed new requirements to sit for boards and transition to Registered Nurse.

The time has come for our Legislators and Educators to address the considerable resources of the already educated, experienced, and available, LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE.

We propose a fair and logical solution for change to the educational requirements for transition from LPN to RN, as LPN's are already practicing at a degreed RN skill level. All States currently have different Scope of Practice Regulations for Licensed Practical Nurses; most of which limit our practice in name only, and are composed in such a way that we are required to have the skills and perform the tasks of the RN, while not being acknowledged nor compensated for.

The [current trends](#) regarding the Nursing Shortage concentrate only on the shortage of educators, the age and upcoming retirement of current RN's, how to retain and prevent current RN's from leaving the profession, and how to recruit high-school students. Although these issues all need to be addressed, solutions all involve a considerable lag-time.

The Licensed Practical Nurse has thus far been completely and unjustly ignored in all [studies](#) and [proposed solutions](#) to the Nursing Crisis; so much so, that Congress will, and has enacted new legislation for more UNLICENSED PERSONNEL to care for the sick and disabled of our Country.

As thousands of LPN's are currently practicing and contributing to the health care, tax-base, and economy of this Country, and even with our considerable skills and experience, we are being undermined and replaced with legislation for the less educated, inexperienced, and unlicensed [Medical Assistant/Technicians](#), [Medication Aides](#), and now, [Paid Feeding Assistants](#). We have systematically been pushed out of the hospital setting, while being replaced by [Foreign Nurses](#); and now, with more focus on Federal and State regulation for Unlicensed Staff, our Country's Long Term Care Facilities can operate at a much lower cost by employing the less educated to care for our ill and disabled.

We oppose the increased use of and legislation for Unlicensed Personnel in our hospitals and Long Term Care Facilities, while the experienced Licensed Nurses of this country are ignored; and furthermore, propose that these practices are contrary to improving the failing Health Care System in our Country.

Furthermore, we believe the current practice of utilizing [Foreign Nurses](#), and going through great pains and expense of [recruiting](#) them, while ignoring the experienced, qualified LPN, is further evidence of the collapse of the Health Care System in the United States.

We believe in setting standards and criteria for professional nursing, but also know that no amount of general study courses can replace the years of work experience and job requirements that thousands of LPN's already have. To ignore the vast pool of QUALIFIED NURSES is an INJUSTICE to Licensed Nurses and the Public in general.

We believe this to be the most logical and cost-effective way to ease our Country's Nursing Shortage and ensures the Quality of Care our citizens deserve.