

2/11/2022

Dear Chairman Richard Hilderbrand and Members :

I am writing as a proponent and submitting written testimony only on Senate Bill 453. As the Vice President of Clinical Services for Harry Hynes Memorial Hospice, I would like to share the importance of Certified Nursing Aides in our environment.

Certified Nursing Aides (CNA) and Home Health Aides (HHA) are the team members, who spend the most time with our patients and families. They are the “Heart” of the clinical team. They step in when patients are the most vulnerable. Clients are losing their mobility and independence and begin to rely on others to assist with activities of daily living such as: dressing, bathing, toileting, and eating. In hospice, we rely on family members, friends, or hired caregivers to provide caregiving around the clock.

CNAs / HHAs can offload some of these strenuous tasks from the family members. Often patients do not want their loved ones seeing them at their most vulnerable. By utilizing CNAs / HHAs, patients can maintain their dignity. Patients often rely on these team members for support, guidance, and companionship.

I am supporting Senate Bill 453 because the healthcare industry needs CNAs / HHAs on our teams. We need to find alternative methods to train and supervise these students that play an essential role in the healthcare environment.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Cahoj
Vice President of Clinical Services
Harry Hynes Memorial Hospice