

**WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE
NATALIE E. TENNANT
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW DIVISION**

Form #3

Do Not Mark In This Box

FILED

2012 AUG -1 PM 2:12

OFFICE WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

**NOTICE OF AGENCY APPROVAL OF A PROPOSED RULE
AND
FILING WITH THE LEGISLATIVE RULE-MAKING REVIEW COMMITTEE**

AGENCY: West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses TITLE NUMBER: 19

CITE AUTHORITY: W.V. §30-7-4, 30-7-8a and 30-1-4

AMENDMENT TO AN EXISTING RULE: YES ☒ NO ☐

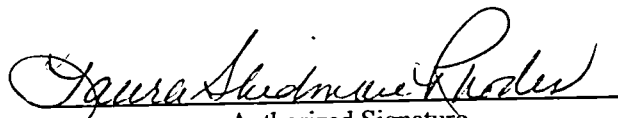
IF YES, SERIES NUMBER OF RULE BEING AMENDED: 12

TITLE OF RULE BEING AMENDED: Fees for Services Rendered by the Board and Supplemental Renewal Fee for the Center for Nursing

IF NO, SERIES NUMBER OF RULE BEING PROPOSED: _____

TITLE OF RULE BEING PROPOSED: _____

THE ABOVE PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE RULE HAVING GONE TO A PUBLIC HEARING OR A PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD IS HEREBY APPROVED BY THE PROMULGATING AGENCY FOR FILING WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE LEGISLATIVE RULE-MAKING REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR THEIR REVIEW.


Authorized Signature



**STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL NURSES
101 Dee Drive, Suite 102
Charleston, WV 25311-1620**

July 31, 2012

The Honorable Natalie Tennent
Secretary of State
Building 1, Suite 157-K
1900 Kanawha Blvd
Charleston, WV 25305-0770

RE: Board Approved Proposed Rule WV 19 CSR 12

Dear Secretary Tennant:

The West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses (Board) in session July 27, 2012 approved the proposed rule WV 19 CSR 12 Fees for Services Rendered by the Board and Supplemental Fee for the Center for Nursing. This letter serves to notify your office of the agency approval and to provide the required brief summary for the proposed changes.

The Board regulates over 30,000 registered professional nurses. The last fee increase for Board operations was in 1992 when the annual renewal fee increased from \$15.00 to \$25.00. In 2005, a fee increase of \$10.00 to support the West Virginia Center for Nursing was approved raising the annual renewal fee to \$35.00 with the Board continuing to receive \$25.00 of this amount. The increase proposed at this time provides for a total of a \$30.00 increase in the annual renewal fee resulting in an annual renewal fee of \$65.00. The fee increase will be divided providing \$15.00 to Board operations and \$15.00 deposited directly into a fund for nurse health programs.

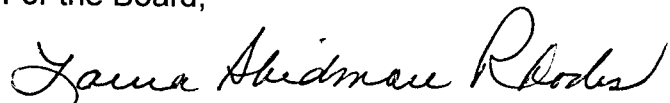
The nurse health programs are monitoring programs that will assist in public protection by providing monitoring and recovery support for nurses with substance use disorders and qualifying mental health conditions. The program is similar to that which already exists for the West Virginia Board of Medicine for monitoring physicians with similar diagnoses. The monitoring program also includes further educating all nurses about the disease of addiction, how to identify addiction in one's self and others, the importance of, and how to, seek assistance, and initiating support groups across the state all in an effort to reduce the occurrence of the disease of addiction and how to provide support for those in recovery.

Agency Approval and Explanation
Secretary of State
Page 2

Registered Professional Nurses (RN) have been notified of this change and the Comment Period through a news magazine sent to all actively licensed RN's in March and early June 2012 as well as a web site notification.

Should you have any questions or desire more information please contact me.

For the Board,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura Skidmore Rhodes". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Laura Skidmore Rhodes, MSN, RN
Executive Director

QUESTIONNAIRE

(Please include a copy of this form with each filing of your rule: Notice of Public Hearing or Comment Period; Proposed Rule, and if needed, Emergency and Modified Rule.)

DATE: July 30, 2012

TO: LEGISLATIVE RULE-MAKING REVIEW COMMITTEE

FROM: (Agency Name, Address & Phone No.) West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered
Professional Nurses
101 Dee Drive, Suite 102
Charleston, WV 25311

LEGISLATIVE RULE TITLE: Fees for Services Rendered by the Board and Supplemental
Renewal Fee for the Center for Nursing

1. Authorizing statute(s) citation W.V. §§30-7-4, 30-7-8a and 30-1-4

2. a. Date filed in State Register with Notice of Hearing or Public Comment Period:

June 22, 2012

b. What other notice, including advertising, did you give of the hearing?

Proposed fee changes were listed in the State Register, and in the Board's RN News Magazine which is mailed to over 30,000 registered Professional Nurses holding a WV license delivered in March 2012 and again in June 2012 with a note to visit the Board's web site for a full copy of the proposed rule. Licensees were informed of the opportunity to send in comments related to the rule change in both publications. Rules were available on the Board's web site. Various stakeholders were notified of the proposed rule changes including the West Virginia Nurses Association, the West Virginia Hospital Association, WV Schools of Nursing regulated by the Board.

c. Date of Public Hearing(s) *or* Public Comment Period ended:

July 18, 2012

d. Attach list of persons who appeared at hearing, comments received, amendments, reasons for amendments.

Attached x No comments received

- e. Date you filed in State Register the agency approved proposed Legislative Rule following public hearing: (be exact)

July 31, 2012

- f. **Name, title, address and phone/fax/e-mail numbers** of agency person(s) to receive all *written correspondence* regarding this rule: (Please type)

Laura Skidmore Rhodes, Executive Director

West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses
101 Dee Drive, Suite 102

Charleston, WV 25311

- g. **IF DIFFERENT FROM ITEM 'f',** please give **Name, title, address and phone number(s)** of agency person(s) who wrote and/or has responsibility for the contents of this rule: (Please type)

3. If the statute under which you promulgated the submitted rules requires certain findings and determinations to be made as a condition precedent to their promulgation:

- a. Give the date upon which you filed in the State Register a notice of the time and place of a hearing for the taking of evidence and a general description of the issues to be decided.

b. Date of hearing or comment period:

c. On what date did you file in the State Register the findings and determinations required together with the reasons therefor?

d. Attach findings and determinations and reasons:

Attached _____

APPENDIX B

FISCAL NOTE FOR PROPOSED RULES

Rule Title:

"Fees for Services Rendered by the Board and Supplemental Renewal Fee for the Center for Nursing"

Type of Rule:

☒ Legislative ☐ Interpretive ☐ Procedural

Agency:

West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses

Address:

101 Dee Drive, Suite 102, Charleston, WV 25311

Phone Number:

(304) 558-3596Email: rnboard@wv.gov**Fiscal Note Summary**

Summarize in a clear and concise manner what impact this measure will have on costs and revenues of state government.

The Board has not had a renewal fee increase in twenty years, since 1992. The increase in Board fees will have no impact on the general revenue of state government. The revenue increase to the Board will help to meet the current increase in expenses to the Board. Approximately \$435,000 will go towards the new Nurse Health Program created during the 2012 Legislative Session. Approximately \$478,000 will go to the Board to cover other expenses.

Fiscal Note Detail

Show over-all effect in Item 1 and 2 and, in Item 3, give an explanation of Breakdown by fiscal year, including long-range effect.

FISCAL YEAR			
Effect of Proposal	Current Increase/Decrease (use "-")	Next Increase/Decrease (use "-")	Fiscal Year (Upon Full Implementation)
1. Estimated Total Cost	0.00	0.00	913,000.00
Personal Services	0.00	0.00	
Current Expenses	0.00	0.00	
Repairs & Alterations	0.00	0.00	
Assets	0.00	0.00	
Other	0.00	0.00	
2. Estimated Total Revenues	0.00	0.00	0.00

"Fees for Services Rendered by the Board and Supplemental Renewal Fee for the Center for Nursing"

Rule Title:

Rule Title: _____

3. Explanation of above estimates (including long-range effect):

Please include any increase or decrease in fees in your estimated total revenues.

The \$435,000 for the new Nurse Health Program will be put in a fund specifically for that program. All other increase in fees, which is the remaining \$478,000, will be used to meet Board expenses. Additionally, the Board has not been approved to fill at least two vacant positions because we do not have the income to support the positions.

MEMORANDUM

Please identify any areas of vagueness, technical defects, reasons the proposed rule would not have a fiscal impact, and/or any special issues not captured elsewhere on this form.

Date: July 31, 2012

Signature of Agency Head or Authorized Representative

Tanya Shidman Rhodes

TITLE 19
LEGISLATIVE RULE
BOARD OF REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL NURSES

FILED
2012 AUG -1 PM 2:13

SERIES 12
FEES FOR SERVICES RENDERED BY THE BOARD
AND
SUPPLEMENTAL RENEWAL FEE FOR THE CENTER FOR NURSING

OFFICE WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

§19-12-1. General

- 1.1. Scope. -- This legislative Rule establishes the fees to be charged by the Board for services rendered and the supplemental fee for the West Virginia center for nursing.
- 1.2. Authority. -- W.V. §§ 30-7-4, 30-7-8a and 30-1-4.
- 1.3. Filing Date. --
- 1.4. Effective Date. --

§19-12-2. Schedule of Fees for Services Rendered by the West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses and Supplemental Fee for the West Virginia Center for Nursing.

Fees collected by the Board are not refundable.

- 2.1. Licensure Examination ~~\$51.50~~ 70.00
- 2.2. Re-Examination ~~\$51.50~~ 70.00
- 2.3. Temporary permit (Endorsement) ~~\$10.00~~ 25.00 (Money Order or Cashiers Check
Good for six (6) months ~~90 days~~ from date of issue; Not renewable.
- 2.4. Endorsement into West Virginia ~~\$30.00~~ 100.00 (Money Order or
Cashiers Check)
- 2.5. Verification of Licensure \$30.00 (Money Order or Cashiers Check)
- 2.6. Renewal of License ~~\$25.00~~ 65.00
*\$10.00 of this fee is designated for the West Virginia Center for Nursing.
\$15.00 shall be deposited directly into a Fund designated for programs
related to the monitoring of nurses with substance use disorders and
qualifying mental health conditions.
- 2.7. Supplemental Renewal Fee for the Center for Nursing \$10.00
- 2.8. Reinstatement of Inactive License \$25.00
- 2.9. Reinstatement of Lapsed License ~~\$75.00~~ 115.00
- 2.10. Duplicate License and Name Change ~~\$5.00~~ 10.00
- 2.11 ~~Name Change~~ ~~\$5.00~~
- 2.12.1. Transcripts \$5.00
- 2.13.2. Frameable Certificate (Free to new Graduate Licensee) \$5.00
- 2.14.3. Insufficient Funds Penalty ~~\$20.00~~ \$50.00 (Money Order)

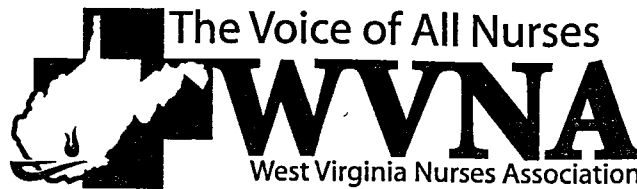
19CSR12

2.1.54.	Diskette of Licensees	\$350.00
2.165.	Computer Listing	\$25.00 Program Fee and \$16.00 per 1,000 Names
2.176.	Mailing Labels	\$25.00 Program Fee and \$45.00 per 1,000 Names
2.18.	Copy of Code and Rule and copy of Criteria for Determining Scope of Practice for Licensed Nurses and Guidelines for Determining Acts That May Be Delegated Or Assigned By Licensed Nurses, "Purple Book"	\$7.50
2.197.	Copy of Files	\$3.00 <u>5.00</u> for the first page then\$.25 <u>.50</u> per page thereafter
2.2018	Prescriptive Authority	\$125.00
2.2119.	Prescriptive Authority Renewal	\$125.00
2.2220.	Prescriptive Authority Reinstatement	\$125.00
2.2321.	Midwife License	\$20.00
2.2422.	Midwife Renewal	\$10.00
2.2523.	Announcement of Advanced Practice Registered Nurse License ...	\$35.00
2.2624.	Continuing Education Provider Fee	\$100.00
2.2725.	Continuing Education provider Maintenance Fee	\$25.00

West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses

Proposed Rule Changes to WV19CSR12

Written Comments Received by U.S. Postal Service During the Comment Period
and the Responses



WV Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nursing
101 Dee Drive, Suite 102
Charleston, WV 25311

WV Board of Nursing:

I am responding to the proposed legislative rule title number 19 series 12 cite authority 30-7-4, 30-7-8a, 30-1-4 titled Fees Increase.

I would first like to commend the entire board and staff for the hard work put forth on the drafting of multiple regulatory legislative rules. The West Virginia Nurses Association (WVNA) would like to congratulate the board for their dynamic ability to address these tough public safety issues. As current president of WVNA I admire the difficult work being done for the safety of our clients, profession and community. I would like to personally thank you all for your remarkable efforts in drafting these rules.

Historically the fee to practice professional nursing in West Virginia has been lower than surrounding states. Currently the license for a Licensed Practical Nurse is higher than for an RN and this would effectively make the fees comparable. With the growth in numbers of nurses and the cost of operations increasing it is imperative that a fee increase be granted to allow the Nursing Board to continue to operate. The work of the Nursing Board is vital for not only public safety but also for the continuity of the nursing profession in the state of West Virginia.

I and my fellow WVNA members support a portion of this fee increase for the establishment of a program for nurses who may or might be affected with the disease of substance use disorder or mental health concerns in a confidential manner that mirrors programs already in place with other healthcare professions in our state. With the problem of substance use affecting our state at an epidemic level allowing a healing option for nurses who can set an example for their patients, peers, communities, and family is a compassionate move in combating substance use. Many of our surrounding states already have such programs and they have shown to be successful.

I do have a question about the Advance Practice Registered Nurse fee of \$35. Is this an annual license fee in addition to the RN license or is this a one-time fee? A suggestion might include 2.23a as a renewal fee of 10.00 to reflect the same renewal fee as paid by the nurse midwife.

Respectfully,

Beth Baldwin, RN, PNP, BC

Beth Baldwin, RN, PNP, BC
President West Virginia Nurses Association

Nannette Jenkins CNM
403 Woodcock Ave
Shepherdstown, WV 25443

July 16, 2012

Dear members of the Board:

I am submitting a letter of support for FEES RULE, 19CSR12. I am licensed in WV, VA, and MD and recognize that the fee to practice professional nursing in West Virginia is extremely low for the area. With the increase in the number of nurses that the West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses has licensed, and the cost of operations rising, it is imperative that a fee increase be granted. The work of the Board of Nursing is vital not only for public safety but also for the continuity of the nursing profession in the state of West Virginia.

I also support the idea that part of this fee increase be used for the establishment of a program for nurses who may or might be affected with the disease of substance use disorder, or mental health disorder, in a confidential manner that mirrors programs already in place with other healthcare professions in our state. With the problem of substance use affecting our state at an epidemic level, allowing a healing option for nurses who can then set an example for their patients, peers, communities, and families is a compassionate move in combating substance use. Many of our surrounding states already have such programs and they have shown to be successful.

I would like to point out one detail about the Advance Practice Registered Nurse fee of \$35. Is this an annual license fee in addition to the RN license, or is this a one-time fee? One suggestion is to include 2.23a as a renewal fee of 10.00 to reflect the same renewal fee as paid by the certified nurse-midwife.

Respectfully,


Nannette Jenkins CNM
Riverside Midwifery, LLC

WV RN BOARD RECEIVED 2012-07-18 02:37 PM

WV Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nursing
101 Dee Drive, Suite 102
Charleston, WV 25311

WV Board of Nursing:

I would like to respectfully submit a letter of support for FEES RULE, 19CSR12. Historically the fee to practice professional nursing in West Virginia has been lower than in surrounding states. I feel this increase is very reasonable, with the increase in the number of nurses that the West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses has to license, and the cost of operations rising. I am aware that currently the fee for a license for an LPN is lower than the fee for a license for an RN it is imperative that a fee increase be granted. The work of the Board of Nursing is vital not only for public safety but also for the continuity of the nursing profession in the state of West Virginia.

I further support supports part of this fee increase for the establishment of a program for nurses who may or might be affected with the disease of substance use disorder, or mental health disorder, in a confidential manner that mirrors programs already in place with other healthcare professions in our state. With the problem of substance use affecting our state at an epidemic level, allowing a healing option for nurses who can then set an example for their patients, peers, communities, and families is a compassionate move in combating substance use. Many of our surrounding states already have such programs and they have shown to be successful.

Thanks you for your efforts to assure the success of the nursing profession.

Respectfully,

Janet Ann Com, RNC

WV RN BOARD RECEIVED 2012-07-20 01:42 PM

Angelita Nixon, CNM, LLC

Angy Nixon
Certified Nurse-Midwife
147 Scenic Drive
Scott Depot, WV 25560
304-757-9006

WV Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nursing
101 Dee Drive, Suite 102
Charleston, WV 25311

July 18, 2012

Dear Board Members/Staff:

I am writing in support of the FEES RULE, 19CSR12. I realize that our current fees are low and have not been raised in recent memory – not in the entire time I have held a WV license (13 years). Our licensing fees support the work of the Board of Nursing, which is vital not only for public safety but also for continuity of the nursing profession in this state.

I especially appreciate the work of the Board in supporting and implementing the LACE Consensus Model, as put forth by the NCSBN and ratified by nearly fifty national nursing and specialty nursing professional organizations. This is a high achievement, and sets us ahead of the curve nationally in keeping with a strong and progressive leadership vision for the future of nursing.

I would specifically like to comment that it might be appropriate to open the forms of payment that are currently limited to money order and cashiers check, to include personal check and online payment options. I very strongly support having a two-year cycle option, to help make paying in advance more convenient for the licensee and more efficient for the Board. I very much appreciate the current and continued very low licensing fee for certified nurse-midwives. I support the move to incorporating the CNM role within the APRN title, and the separate licensure for APRNs, and I understand that while the fee will increase for CNMs, it is extremely valuable for APRNs to be uniformly categorized and regulated.

Thanks you for your efforts to assure the strength and success of the nursing profession.

Respectfully,



Angelita Nixon

From: [WV Board of Registered Nurses](#)
To: [Rhodes, Laura S](#)
Subject: FW: Fees
Date: Wednesday, June 27, 2012 12:59:28 PM

From: Cassy Taylor [mailto:cassycrna@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 27, 2012 12:49 PM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: Fees

I am writing in support of legislative rules applying to Title 19, Series 12, as proposed by the West Virginia Board of Examiners for Professional Registered Nurses.

I appreciate that the Board of Examiners work has increased over the years, without a significant fee increase. It is important for the Board to have the resources necessary in order to fulfill its mission to provide for the safety of WV citizens. These increases are reasonable, and far overdue.

I support this proposed rule regarding a new fee schedule.

Cassy Taylor DNP, DMP, CRNA, CNE
Instructor, CAMC School of Nurse Anesthesia
Associate faculty, Lewis College of Business
Marshall University

I am always doing that which I can not do, in order that I may learn how to do it. -- Pablo Picasso

From: [WV Board of Registered Nurses](#)
To: [Rhodes, Laura S](#)
Subject: FW: FEE INCREASE
Date: Monday, May 07, 2012 8:21:14 AM

From: Shane Conn [mailto:sconnrn@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2012 4:05 PM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: FEE INCREASE

To Whom It May Concern:

It is of no surprise that a license fee increase is necessary to support the administration cost increases. Despite the claim of many legislators, inflation is quite real as it can easily be spotted in the grocery store and in the scrub shop. Unfortunately, many of West Virginia's nurses have not seen a reflection of the increased dollar signs on their direct deposit slips. We have nursing schools pumping out nurses much faster than many markets can absorb. The combination of a shoddy economy, increased regulations at the federal level and the push for ACOs, unknown future Meaningful Use requirements, Value-Based Purchasing, etc. helps to keep GN hiring low and wages stagnant. Many of WV's nurses are un or under-employed and there's a proposal to increase licensing fees by a whopping 90%!?! Perhaps the goal is \$50 for a renewal fee and we're being shocked by \$65 so that \$50 doesn't seem so bad.

"Approximately 15% of nurses have a Substance Use Disorder." (West Virginia Nurse) As I understand this statement, 85% of WV's registered nurses will have to pay for the 15% that have a substance abuse disorder??? How about we just call this a "Registered Nurse tax." As an individual that has many mistakes in his past, I am not one to judge the actions of another. However, I've never asked for another to pay for my poor judgement and situations.

There were several hundred nurses asking for jobs at nurse unity day; I was there. Unfortunately, there are many more nurses than jobs at this time. I have received over 150 applications for 15 GN positions. It seems to me that this is the perfect opportunity to move to allow those with substance abuse disorders to clean *themselves* up while moving to baccalaureate or graduate level nursing as being the minimum for entry to practice and grandfather those that are already RN's without the proposed education level.

This opportunity may not rise again. Those that can no longer function safely have no business caring for our patients. Rehabilitation does not happen overnight. Let them move aside for the younger nurses that have not had the chance to use their talents nor had an opportunity to repay their tax payer-backed student loans.

Thank you for allowing and giving the opportunity for West Virginia's Professional Registered Nurses voice their opinions and concerns.

Lawrence Conn, RN, BSN, CCRN (almost MBA-HC)

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4801

AUTHORIZATION FORM

Please complete and return this form to:

Senator Joe Manchin III
303 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
fax: (202) 228-0002

In order to protect your privacy, the Privacy Act of 1974 requires that I receive written permission from you so that I may make an inquiry with the appropriate officials on your behalf. If you are in need of assistance, please complete this authorization form and return it immediately. As soon as I receive this form, I will be pleased to do everything I can to provide assistance to you.

Joe Manchin III
United States Senate

7/3/12
(Date)

This will authorize the release to Senator Joe Manchin III of any pertinent information concerning my claim currently pending with the WV State Board of Nursing

(Agency)

Jonathan Wood
(Signature)

Jonathan Wood
(Print Name in Full)

991 Little Horse Creek Rd
(Street Address)

(304) 369-3450
(Telephone Number)

Julian WV 25529
(City, State, Zip Code)

(Social Security, Account/Claim Number)

Please provide a brief explanation of the problem below:

Rehab for Narcotic Dependent Nurses
who can't function as Full-on RN's;
+\$15.00 to License Renewal for WV RN's.

JM/ggg

Nursing Gala for +\$10.00 year License
Renewal. License Renewal for WV

RN's almost doubled. Thank you.
07/03/2012 8:19AM (GMT-04:00)

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4801

AUTHORIZATION FORM

Please complete and return this form to:

Senator Joe Manchin III
303 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
fax: (202) 228-0002

In order to protect your privacy, the Privacy Act of 1974 requires that I receive written permission from you so that I may make an inquiry with the appropriate officials on your behalf. If you are in need of assistance, please complete this authorization form and return it immediately. As soon as I receive this form, I will be pleased to do everything I can to provide assistance to you.

Joe Manchin III
United States Senate

7/3/12

(Date)

This will authorize the release to Senator Joe Manchin III of any pertinent information concerning my claim currently pending with the WV Board of Nursing

(Agency)

Traci Young

(Signature)

Traci Young

(Print Name in Full)

50 Adkins Road

(Street Address)

304 442-9106

(Telephone Number)

Kimberly WV 25718

(City, State, Zip Code)

(Social Security, Account/Claim Number)

Please provide a brief explanation of the problem below:

Increase in RN renewal fee for license
from 35.00 yearly to 65.00 yearly.

JM/geg

April 10, 2012

To: W.Va. Board of Nursing;

Regarding the rate increase for license renewal fee, you people are out of your minds.

First, if a R.N. gets in trouble with drugs that's her problem, not mine. Second, if she's working she should have insurance for her employer.

Third, if she gets fired and has no money, she will be on welfare.

People need to take responsibility for their actions. You people are just blaming the drug users by raising the fees to provide treatment for the errand R.N.s.

WV RN BOARD RECEIVED 2012-04-13 02:48 PM

Nursing never had so many drug users as now, that's because the schools take anybody that can pay and that includes the Welfare Dept. paying for people to attend school.

Whatever happened to screening people for high morals and integrity before they can get into the nursing programs?

I hope you reconsider raising the fee. People are having money problems as it is, I don't need to pay for a druggie.

Thank you!

Donna McConkey R.N.



Mrs. Donna J. McConkey
757 Mozart Rd
Wheeling WV 26003-7324

Laura S. Rhodes, M.S.N., R.N.
Executive Director

email: rnboard@wv.gov
web address: www.wvrnboard.com



TELEPHONE:

(304) 558-3596

FAX (304) 558-3666

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL NURSES
101 Dee Drive, Suite 102
Charleston, WV 25311-1620

July 30, 2012

Beth Baldwin, RN, PNP, BC, President
West Virginia Nurses Association
PO Box 1946
Charleston, WV 25327

RE: Comments Regarding Proposed Changes to WV19CSR12

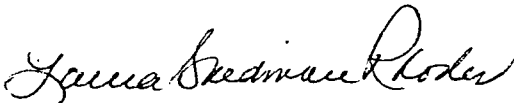
Dear Ms. Baldwin:

Thank you for providing supporting comments to the proposed changes to West Virginia Code of State Rules Title 19 Series 12 Fees for Services Rendered by the Board and Supplemental Fee for the Center for Nursing by the West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses (Board). The Board appreciates the West Virginia Nurses Association's support of the proposed fee increases for Board operations as well as resources to further develop and support a nurse health program for nurses with substance use disorders and qualifying mental health conditions.

Regarding your question about the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) license fee, this fee is not being changed and will remain a thirty-five dollar (\$35.00) fee. The APRN fee is not increasing at this time and will be a biennial fee with all licenses expiring on June 30 every other year on the odd year.

Thank you again for your support.

For the Board,


Laura Skidmore Rhodes
Executive Director

Laura S. Rhodes, M.S.N., R.N.
Executive Director

email: rnboard@wv.gov
web address: www.wvrnboard.com



TELEPHONE:

(304) 558-3596

FAX (304) 558-3666

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL NURSES
101 Dee Drive, Suite 102
Charleston, WV 25311-1620

July 30, 2012

Nannette Jenkins, CNM
Riverside Midwifery, LLC
403 Woodcock Ave
Shepherdstown, WV 25443-4769

RE: Comments Regarding Proposed Changes to WV19CSR12

Dear Ms. Jenkins:

Thank you for providing supporting comments to the proposed changes to West Virginia Code of State Rules Title 19 Series 12 Fees for Services Rendered by the Board and Supplemental Fee for the Center for Nursing by the West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses (Board). The Board appreciates your support of the proposed fee increases for Board operations as well as resources to further develop and support a nurse health program for nurses with substance use disorders and qualifying mental health conditions.

Regarding your question about the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) license fee, this fee is not being changed and will remain a thirty-five dollar (\$35.00) fee. The APRN fee is not increasing at this time and will be a biennial fee with all licenses expiring on June 30 every other year on the odd year.

Thank you again for your support.

For the Board,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura Skidmore Rhodes".

Laura Skidmore Rhodes
Executive Director

Laura S. Rhodes, M.S.N., R.N.
Executive Director

email: rnboard@wv.gov
web address: www.wvrnboard.com



TELEPHONE:

(304) 558-3596

FAX (304) 558-3666

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL NURSES
101 Dee Drive, Suite 102
Charleston, WV 25311-1620

July 30, 2012

Gail Rock, CNM, RNC
880 Trap Run Road
Friendsville, WV 21531

RE: Comments Regarding Proposed Changes to WV19CSR12

Dear Ms. Jenkins:

Thank you for providing supporting comments to the proposed changes to West Virginia Code of State Rules Title 19 Series 12 Fees for Services Rendered by the Board and Supplemental Fee for the Center for Nursing by the West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses (Board). The Board appreciates the West Virginia Nurses Association's support of the proposed fee increases for Board operations as well as resources to further develop and support a nurse health program for nurses with substance use disorders and qualifying mental health conditions.

Thank you again for your support.

For the Board,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura Skidmore Rhodes".

Laura Skidmore Rhodes
Executive Director

Laura S. Rhodes, M.S.N., R.N.
Executive Director

email: rnboard@wv.gov
web address: www.wvrnboard.com



TELEPHONE:

(304) 558-3596

FAX (304) 558-3666

**STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL NURSES
101 Dee Drive, Suite 102
Charleston, WV 25311-1620**

July 30, 2012

Angy Nixon, CNM
147 Scenic Drive
Scott Depot, WV 25560

RE: Comments Regarding Proposed Changes to WV19CSR12

Dear Ms. Nixon:

Thank you for providing supporting comments to the proposed changes to West Virginia Code of State Rules Title 19 Series 12 Fees for Services Rendered by the Board and Supplemental Fee for the Center for Nursing by the West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses (Board). The Board appreciates the West Virginia Nurses Association's support of the proposed fee increases for Board operations as well as resources to further develop and support a nurse health program for nurses with substance use disorders and qualifying mental health conditions.

Thank you again for your support.

For the Board,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura Skidmore Rhodes".

Laura Skidmore Rhodes
Executive Director

Laura S. Rhodes, M.S.N., R.N.
Executive Director

email: rnboard@wv.gov
web address: www.wvrnboard.com



TELEPHONE:

(304) 558-3596

FAX (304) 558-3666

**STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL NURSES
101 Dee Drive, Suite 102
Charleston, WV 25311-1620**

July 30, 2012

Cassy Taylor – cassycrna@yahoo.com

RE: Comments Regarding Proposed Changes to WV19CSR12

Dear Ms. Taylor:

Thank you for providing supporting comments to the proposed changes to West Virginia Code of State Rules Title 19 Series 12 Fees for Services Rendered by the Board and Supplemental Fee for the Center for Nursing by the West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses (Board). The Board appreciates the West Virginia Nurses Association's support of the proposed fee increases for Board operations as well as resources to further develop and support a nurse health program for nurses with substance use disorders and qualifying mental health conditions.

Regarding your question about the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) license fee, this fee is not being changed and will remain a thirty-five dollar (\$35.00) fee. The APRN fee is not increasing at this time and will be a biennial fee with all licenses expiring on June 30 every other year on the odd year.

Thank you again for your support.

For the Board,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura Skidmore Rhodes".

Laura Skidmore Rhodes
Executive Director

Laura S. Rhodes, M.S.N., R.N.
Executive Director

email: rnboard@wv.gov
web address: www.wvrnboard.com



TELEPHONE:

(304) 558-3596

FAX (304) 558-3666

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL NURSES
101 Dee Drive, Suite 102
Charleston, WV 25311-1620

July 30, 2012

Lawrence Conn, RN, BSN, CCRN – sconnrn@gmail.com
Comments Regarding Proposed Changes to WV19CSR12

Dear Mr. Conn:

Thank you for providing comments to the proposed changes to West Virginia Code of State Rules Title 19 Series 12 Fees for Services Rendered by the Board and Supplemental Fee for the Center for Nursing by the West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses (Board). The Board appreciates your support for the fee increase related to increased costs of operations. The Board notes that you are opposed to the fee increase related to further develop and support a nurse health program for nurses with substance use disorders and qualifying mental health conditions.

West Virginia has a current substance misuse epidemic. A portion of the proposed fee increase will be to further fund the nurse health program West Virginia Restore (WV Restore). This an alternative program is for nurses with substance use disorders and qualifying mental health conditions. It is **not** a treatment program. The Board will not be paying for treatment. The nurse health program is includes preventive education for all nurses and employers regarding recognizing these issues in themselves and others, and will provide an ongoing monitoring and recovery program for nurses who are able to return to practice after meeting the program requirements. The related law is identical to that of the Physician Health Program (PHP) through the Board of Medicine. That program has documented significant success in addressing this issue among the medical community.

The majority of complaints received by the Board relate to substance use and misuse by registered professional nurses. The goal is that prevention and early intervention will help nurses get the help they need before there is any patient harm, there is an addiction, or their workplace is affected. Essentially, the Board is implementing a program intended to save lives. The Board will be seeking the proposed fee increases.

Thank you again for your comments.

For the Board,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura Skidmore Rhodes".

Laura Skidmore Rhodes
Executive Director

Laura S. Rhodes, M.S.N., R.N.
Executive Director

email: rnboard@wv.gov
web address: www.wvrnboard.com



TELEPHONE:

(304) 558-3596

FAX (304) 558-3666

**STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL NURSES
101 Dee Drive, Suite 102
Charleston, WV 25311-1620**

July 30, 2012

Jonathan Wood
991 Little Horse Creek Rd
Julian, WV 25529

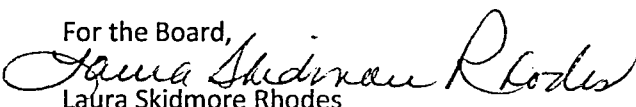
RE: Comments Regarding Proposed Changes to WV19CSR12

Dear Mr. Wood:

Thank you for providing comments to the proposed changes to West Virginia Code of State Rules Title 19 Series 12 Fees for Services Rendered by the Board and Supplemental Fee for the Center for Nursing by the West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses (Board). In response to your concerns about the fee increase the Board wants to share that the agency has not had a renewal fee increase since 1992. All efforts have been made over the years to minimize operational costs. The Board has now exhausted all avenues to minimize costs and finds it necessary to increase fees in order to successfully meet its legislative mandate of public protection.

West Virginia has a current substance misuse epidemic. A portion of the proposed fee increase will be to further fund the nurse health program West Virginia Restore (WV Restore). This an alternative program is for nurses with substance use disorders and qualifying mental health conditions. It is **not** a treatment program. The Board will not be paying for treatment. The nurse health program is includes preventive education for all nurses and employers regarding recognizing these issues in themselves and others, and will provide an ongoing monitoring and recovery program for nurses who are able to return to practice after meeting the program requirements. The related law is identical to that of the Physician Health Program (PHP) through the Board of Medicine. That program has documented significant success in addressing this issue among the medical community.

The majority of complaints received by the Board relate to substance use and misuse by registered professional nurses. The goal is that prevention and early intervention will help nurses get the help they need before there is any patient harm, there is an addiction, or their workplace is affected. Essentially, the Board is implementing a program intended to save lives. The Board will be seeking the proposed fee increases.

For the Board,

Laura Skidmore Rhodes
Executive Director



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL NURSES
101 Dee Drive, Suite 102
Charleston, WV 25311-1620

July 30, 2012

Traci Young
50 Adkins Road
Kimberly, WV 25118

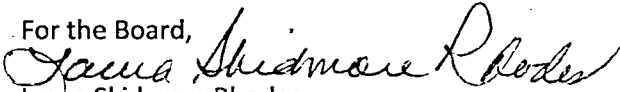
RE: Comments Regarding Proposed Changes to WV19CSR12

Dear Ms. Young:

Thank you for providing comments to the proposed changes to West Virginia Code of State Rules Title 19 Series 12 Fees for Services Rendered by the Board and Supplemental Fee for the Center for Nursing by the West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses (Board). In response to your concerns about the fee increase the Board wants to share that the agency has not had a renewal fee increase since 1992. All efforts have been made over the years to minimize operational costs. The Board has now exhausted all avenues to minimize costs and finds it necessary to increase fees in order to successfully meet its legislative mandate of public protection.

West Virginia has a current substance misuse epidemic. A portion of the proposed fee increase will be to further fund the nurse health program West Virginia Restore (WV Restore). This an alternative program is for nurses with substance use disorders and qualifying mental health conditions. It is **not** a treatment program. The Board will not be paying for treatment. The nurse health program is includes preventive education for all nurses and employers regarding recognizing these issues in themselves and others, and will provide an ongoing monitoring and recovery program for nurses who are able to return to practice after meeting the program requirements. The related law is identical to that of the Physician Health Program (PHP) through the Board of Medicine. That program has documented significant success in addressing this issue among the medical community.

The majority of complaints received by the Board relate to substance use and misuse by registered professional nurses. The goal is that prevention and early intervention will help nurses get the help they need before there is any patient harm, there is an addiction, or their workplace is affected. Essentially, the Board is implementing a program intended to save lives. The Board will be seeking the proposed fee increases.

For the Board,

Laura Skidmore Rhodes
Executive Director



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL NURSES
101 Dee Drive, Suite 102
Charleston, WV 25311-1620

July 30, 2012

Donna J. McConkey
757 Mozart Rd
Wheeling, WV 26003-7324

RE: Comments Regarding Proposed Changes to WV19CSR12

Dear Ms. McConkey:

Thank you for providing comments to the proposed changes to West Virginia Code of State Rules Title 19 Series 12 Fees for Services Rendered by the Board and Supplemental Fee for the Center for Nursing by the West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses (Board). In response to your concerns about the fee increase the Board wants to share that the agency has not had a renewal fee increase since 1992. All efforts have been made over the years to minimize operational costs. The Board has now exhausted all avenues to minimize costs and finds it necessary to increase fees in order to successfully meet its legislative mandate of public protection.

West Virginia has a current substance misuse epidemic. A portion of the proposed fee increase will be to further fund the nurse health program West Virginia Restore (WV Restore). This an alternative program is for nurses with substance use disorders and qualifying mental health conditions. It is **not** a treatment program. The Board will not be paying for treatment. The nurse health program is includes preventive education for all nurses and employers regarding recognizing these issues in themselves and others, and will provide an ongoing monitoring and recovery program for nurses who are able to return to practice after meeting the program requirements. The related law is identical to that of the Physician Health Program (PHP) through the Board of Medicine. That program has documented significant success in addressing this issue among the medical community.

The majority of complaints received by the Board relate to substance use and misuse by registered professional nurses. The goal is that prevention and early intervention will help nurses get the help they need before there is any patient harm, there is an addiction, or their workplace is affected. Essentially, the Board is implementing a program intended to save lives. The Board will be seeking the proposed fee increases.

For the Board,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Laura Skidmore Rhodes".

Laura Skidmore Rhodes
Executive Director

West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses

Proposed Rule Changes to WV19CSR12

Written Comments Received by E-mail During the Comment Period
and the Response

Laura S. Rhodes, M.S.N., R.N.
Executive Director

email: rnboard@wv.gov
web address: www.wvrnboard.com



TELEPHONE:

(304) 558-3596

FAX (304) 558-3666

**STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL NURSES
101 Dee Drive, Suite 102
Charleston, WV 25311-1620**

July 30, 2012

The message below was sent to those individuals filing email comments during the comment period.

RE: Comments Regarding Proposed Changes to WV19CSR12

Thank you for providing comments to the proposed changes to West Virginia Code of State Rules Title 19 Series 12 Fees for Services Rendered by the Board and Supplemental Fee for the Center for Nursing by the West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses (Board). In response to your concerns about and opposition to the fee increase, the Board wants to share that the agency has not had a renewal fee increase since 1992. All efforts have been made over the years to minimize operational costs. The Board has now exhausted all avenues to minimize costs and finds it necessary to increase fees in order to successfully meet its legislative mandate of public protection.

West Virginia has a current substance misuse epidemic. A portion of the proposed fee increase will be to further fund the Board's monitoring program and establish a non-disciplinary nurse health program, West Virginia Restore (WV Restore). WV Restore is an alternative program is for nurses with substance use disorders and qualifying mental health conditions. It is **not** a treatment program. The Board will not be paying for treatment. The nurse health program includes preventive education for all nurses and employers regarding recognizing these issues in themselves and others, and will provide an ongoing monitoring and recovery program for nurses who are able to return to practice after meeting the program requirements. The related law is identical to that of the Physician Health Program (PHP) through the Board of Medicine. That program has documented significant success in addressing this issue among the medical community.

The majority of complaints received by the Board relate to substance use and misuse by registered professional nurses. Prevention and early intervention will assist nurses in getting the help they need before there is any patient harm, there is an addiction, or their workplace is affected. Essentially, the Board is implementing a program intended to save lives. The Board will be seeking the proposed fee increases.

For the Board,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laura Skidmore Rhodes".

Laura Skidmore Rhodes
Executive Director

From: [WV Board of Registered Nurses](#)
To: [Rhodes, Laura S](#)
Subject: FW: FEES
Date: Monday, June 18, 2012 8:27:12 AM

From: Mercedes C Weikle [mailto:mercedesw@wildblue.net]
Sent: Sunday, June 17, 2012 2:59 PM
To: Board of Registered Nurses; mercedesw@wildblue.net
Subject: FEES

Good Afternoon,

I am submitting comments regarding the fee increase to support the Impaired Nurse Treatment Program. While I do believe in treatment and second chances for impaired nurses, I DO NOT believe that I should have to pay for their problems. I believe that any additional costs should be absorbed by those nurses who need the help and not by those of us who do not.

I feel that if everyone is charged these additional fees, the board is basically punishing everyone for the mistakes of the few, which is very unfair. In this economy, every dollar is precious and I should not have to use my dollars for someone else's drug problem. It is unfortunate that some nurses abuse their positions and become addicted to drugs, but it is their problem that they created. Those nurses should have to pay for their own treatment, that is the fair thing to do.

I appreciate your time in hearing my thoughts as a Registered Professional Nurse in WV.

Sincerely,

Mercedes Weikle
mercedesw@wildblue.net

Rhodes, Laura S

From: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Sent: Thursday, July 12, 2012 9:04 AM
To: Rhodes, Laura S
Subject: FW: Fee Increase Comment

From: Walker, Barbara [<mailto:Barbara.Walker@gvmc.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, July 11, 2012 9:38 AM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: Fee Increase Comment

Although I am in favor of help and discipline program for impaired nurses, I would prefer that the fee increase not include mandatory assistance to this program. I would favor this being voluntary and suggest that the board consider adding a voluntary donation to our license renewal form.

Thank you

Barbara Walker

Barbara Walker RN, BSN, CIC | Infection Control / Employee Health Coordinator | Greenbrier Valley Medical Center | 202 Maplewood Ave. | Ronceverte, WV 24970 | Phone: 304 647-4411, extension 6878 | Fax: 304 647-6544 | barbara.walker@gvmc.com

Disclaimer: This electronic message may contain information that is Proprietary, Confidential, or legally privileged or protected. It is intended only for the use of the individual(s) and entity named in the message. If you are not an intended recipient of this message, please notify the sender immediately and delete the material from your computer. Do not deliver, distribute or copy this message and do not disclose its contents or take any action in reliance on the information it contains.

Disclaimer: This electronic message may contain information that is Proprietary, Confidential, or legally privileged or protected. It is intended only for the use of the individual(s) and entity named in the message. If you are not an intended recipient of this message, please notify the sender immediately and delete the material from your computer. Do not deliver, distribute or copy this message and do not disclose its contents or take any action in reliance on the information it contains.

Rhodes, Laura S

From: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Sent: Thursday, July 12, 2012 3:41 PM
To: Rhodes, Laura S
Subject: FW: fee increase

From: Jared Vorholt [<mailto:vorhog@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Thursday, July 12, 2012 10:20 AM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: fee increase

Dear WV Board of Nursing,

The WV Board of Nursing is wanting to almost double the annual RN license fee. I am a married man with two children and they depend on me to support them. It is hard enough to pay the fee as it is now, especially with today's economy. The reason for this increase is mostly for the rehabilitation of drug abusing nurses. I do not agree with this proposal. I have talked with many people about this, nurses and non-nurses, and they are also of like mind. Please look at this proposed decision carefully.

Thank you,
Jared Vorholt R.N.

Rhodes, Laura S

From: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Sent: Thursday, June 14, 2012 4:08 PM
To: Rhodes, Laura S
Subject: FW: Increase in renewal fee

-----Original Message-----

From: Kim [<mailto:kimmymrn03@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, June 14, 2012 3:47 PM
To: Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: Increase in renewal fee

I am writing to protest the increase in RN renewal fees. As a full time nurse and working for a not for profit organization I find that it will be a financial hardship on me and many others for the RN Board to increase the renewal fees. I have not received a raise in a few years.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kim Urban, RN

From: WV Board of Registered Nurses
To: Rhodes, Laura S
Subject: FW: FEES
Date: Monday, June 18, 2012 8:19:36 AM

From: Amy [mailto:summersbunch@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 14, 2012 10:54 PM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: FEES

To whom it may concern:

I am opposed to My fees being raised for a program geared towards alcohol abuse, drug abuse, and a major mental illness for my coworkers in the state of WV. I think this is an inappropriate use of my license fees.

Sincerely,

Amy Summers, RN

From: [WV Board of Registered Nurses](#)
To: [Rhodes, Laura S](#)
Subject: FW: Fees
Date: Thursday, June 14, 2012 8:37:01 AM

From: BarbaraBStevens@aol.com [mailto:BarbaraBStevens@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 14, 2012 8:09 AM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: Fees

I am opposed to the \$45.00 fee for processing paper renewals.

There are RN's who do not have access to a computer and others who do not have a credit card. This is more likely to be a problem for the older RN who continues to maintain his or her license.

Although there are computers in local libraries one would be reluctant to put personal credit card information in a public computer.

In some remote areas of our state where internet access is very limited there are also individuals who may not have computer skills. There are nurses employed in nursing homes and other smaller facilities where computers are not a part of the skill set that is required of the nurses.

It would appear that the other increased fees would offset the additional staff time that is needed to process paper renewals and therefore it should not be necessary to punish those nurses who choose (generally because of necessity) to renewal through the US mail.

Thank you for considering these comment,

Barbara Stevens
130 Brady Drive
Barboursville, WV 25504

From: [WV Board of Registered Nurses](#)
To: [Rhodes, Laura S](#)
Subject: FW: Fees
Date: Monday, June 11, 2012 9:37:13 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: Brian Simpson [<mailto:briansimpson87@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, June 07, 2012 1:29 PM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: Fees

In reference to the \$30 dollar fee increase:

Every healthcare facility I have either worked at or looked into applying to has an employee substance abuse program in place for staff that may suffer from drug or alcohol abuse. Making nurses that do not have substance abuse problems pay for a program is muck akin to the existing state taxes we all pay to support people that do not support themselves.

I recently took a trip to Ecuador, where there are no public social support programs. No welfare, no disability or social security retirement, and no state sponsored healthcare. People work, providing for their own medical benefits and retirement. The government keeps the cost of gasoline, electricity and food at an extremely low cost so it is affordable. The people of Ecuador as a whole understand that it is important to support yourself and your family. This builds a sense of pride and responsibility.

It is my opinion that we in America and in West Virginia work too hard to pay for programs that do not affect us. With existing employer programs for substance abuse already in place, this would be another redundant social program funded by the working class.

As for the \$15 dollar fee increase for general board operations, are these salary increases? Has the board experienced significant outstanding expenditures that warrant this increase? I currently sit as an appointed Commissioner on the West Virginia State Athletic Commission and we work either within or below our allowed budget. All Commissioners are volunteers and we gain no state benefits, yet we spend countless hours every year planning for and supervising events that we are tasked to oversee. Please be more specific on the need for increased fees for "general expenses".

Brian Simpson RN

Sent from my iPad

Rhodes, Laura S

From: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 9:36 AM
To: Rhodes, Laura S
Subject: FW: LICENSE FEE

From: Katie [<mailto:racingurl66077@aol.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 8:21 AM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: LICENSE FEE

Begin forwarded message:

From: Katie <racingurl66077@aol.com>
Date: July 18, 2012 8:09:43 AM EDT
To: "mike.hall@wvsenate.gov" <mike.hall@wvsenate.gov>, "corey.palumbo@wvsenate.gov" <corey.palumbo@wvsenate.gov>, "brian.savilla@wvhouse.gov" <brian.savilla@wvhouse.gov>, "ron.stollings@frontier.com" <ron.stollings@frontier.com>, "bobbie.hatfield@wvhouse.gov" <bobbie.hatfield@wvhouse.gov>, "brady.paxton@wvhouse.gov" <brady.paxton@wvhouse.gov>, "daniel.foster@camc.org" <daniel.foster@camc.org>
Subject: LICENSE FEE

To whom it may concern:

It has been brought to my attention that our annual RN licensing fee will jump from \$35 to \$65 this October. I would like an explanation for this occurrence.

I am a single woman that is working to support myself, and to be honest there is a lot more month left at the end of the money than I would have ever expected when I chose this career path.

West Virginia RN's are paid less than any of the surrounding 5 states & fees keep rising.

Please take all the above into consideration before approving the fee raise..

Thank you & have a great day,
K. Parsons, RN

From: [WV Board of Registered Nurses](#)
To: [Rhodes, Laura S](#)
Subject: FW: FEE INCREASE
Date: Tuesday, June 26, 2012 1:28:23 PM

From: lillypad72@comcast.net [mailto:lillypad72@comcast.net]
Sent: Tuesday, June 26, 2012 11:47 AM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: FEE INCREASE

Dear WV Board of Nursing,

I have been a registered nurse for 11 years. I get up every morning and go to work and give my patients the best care possible. I work hard everyday and my husband works two jobs for us to pay our bills. I feel that this fee increase on our license renewal is a bit too much. I could understand a 5 to 10 dollar increase, but a 30 dollar increase seems like a bit much! I also feel like the money going to nurses treatment of substance abuse is a little crazy. These nurses make the decision to use drugs and alcohol, it shouldn't be their fellow nurses who have to pay for their treatment. Nurses that are addicted to drugs and alcohol should not be taking care of patients anyway. I hope that you reconsider this decision. It puts too much of a burden on all WV nurses!!

Thank You,

Mindy Lilly, RN

Rhodes, Laura S

From: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 9:35 AM
To: Rhodes, Laura S
Subject: FW: Increase in license fee

From: nkelley381@yahoo.com [<mailto:nkelley381@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 8:19 AM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: Increase in license fee

Hello,

I'm contacting you regarding the possible increase in RN license fee. I do not believe it is fair to us. Whoever chooses to abuse chemical substances: it's their life choice. If we pay for their rehab, then who wouldn't we start paying for smoking cessation or alcohol rehab. As a single mother of two children, I struggle already on every day basis, taking into consideration the nowaday's economy. It would be hard to come up with an increased fee.

thank you very much, and best regards,
Natalia Kelley

From: WV Board of Registered Nurses
To: Rhodes, Laura S
Subject: FW: FEE INCREASE
Date: Monday, June 11, 2012 9:57:29 AM

From: Jean Jenkins [mailto:Jean.Jenkins@chhi.org]
Sent: Friday, June 08, 2012 11:30 AM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: FEE INCREASE

I OBJECT TO THE PROPOSED FEE INCREASE. MOST HOSPITALS OFFER HELP FOR
SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES. PERHAPS IT WOULD BE BETTER TO LOOK
INTO PREVENTION INSTEAD

Rhodes, Laura S

From: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Sent: Tuesday, June 19, 2012 2:11 PM
To: Rhodes, Laura S
Subject: FW: Proposed Fees

From: Harris, Frances E [mailto:Elaine_Harris@chs.net]
Sent: Tuesday, June 19, 2012 1:58 PM
To: Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: Proposed Fees

I am totally against the increase in fees. I believe that a nurse like anyone else should be responsible for their own payment of treatment for any substance abuse or mental issues. Thank you.

Elaine Harris
Quality Coordinator
Plateau Medical Center
430 Main Street
Oak Hill, WV 25901
Phone: (304) 469-8613
Fax: (304) 929-2473
Elaine_harris@chs.net

Disclaimer: This electronic message may contain information that is Proprietary, Confidential, or legally privileged or protected. It is intended only for the use of the individual(s) and entity named in the message. If you are not an intended recipient of this message, please notify the sender immediately and delete the material from your computer. Do not deliver, distribute or copy this message and do not disclose its contents or take any action in reliance on the information it contains.

Disclaimer: This electronic message may contain information that is Proprietary, Confidential, or legally privileged or protected. It is intended only for the use of the individual(s) and entity named in the message. If you are not an intended recipient of this message, please notify the sender immediately and delete the material from your computer. Do not deliver, distribute or copy this message and do not disclose its contents or take any action in reliance on the information it contains.

From: [WV Board of Registered Nurses](#)
To: [Rhodes, Laura S](#)
Subject: FW: Fee Increase
Date: Monday, June 18, 2012 8:18:52 AM
Importance: High

From: Jeannie Clark [mailto:wjjeanc1@suddenlink.net]
Sent: Thursday, June 14, 2012 8:41 PM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: Fee Increase
Importance: High

Please do not implement a fee increase for our RN license renewal!

With the economy in a recession, gas prices at \$4.00 a gallon, increases in our insurance co-pays/deductibles, decreases in covered services and utility costs continuing to rise, we are finding that our rates of pay have actually taken a cut. I work for the State of WV at the DHHR and have not has a raise for several years. A proposed \$30.00 increase to our annual renewal is very disturbing!

Thank you for listening and not initiating the increase in our annual renewal fee.

Rhodes, Laura S

From: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Sent: Friday, July 20, 2012 3:27 PM
To: Rhodes, Laura S
Subject: FW: APRN RXA FEES

From: Bosley, Yvonne [<mailto:Yvonne.Bosley@camc.org>]
Sent: Friday, July 20, 2012 2:40 PM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: APRN RXA FEES

I am opposed to having my license fees increased to cover counseling referrals for drug abusing nurses. Those nurses were trained in pharmacology prior to deciding to use drugs, and they know where to go for help. Yes, our jobs are stressful, but I have worked decades and have never abused drugs/alcohol. These nurses have already cost us, because before they were caught, they were unhelpful in their impaired state on the floors they were hired to work. Our patients were suffering because they were stealing pain meds. Why should sober/stable nurses have to pay again?

I spoke with the Psychiatrist who work here at CAMC to get an idea of the success of a good substance abuse program. I thought a good program would yield about 30%, who stayed clean. The doctors agreed the best you could hope for is about 15%. These psychiatrist included Dr. James Griffith.

If you want to increase my fees, let me have a say who it helps. I prefer to assist someone who is suffering from something they can't help, like cancer. Don't spend my money of people who are totally engaged in self-abuse. It's wrong. You are violating the nurses with integrity.

Yvonne Bosley, RN
CAMC Memorial Hospital

This message was secured by **ZixCorp**®.
To reach ZixCorp, go to: <http://www.zixcorp.com/info/zixmail>

Confidentiality Note: The information contained in this message may be privileged and confidential. If this e-mail contains protected health information, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited, except as permitted by law. If you have received this communication in error, please notify the sender immediately by replying to this message and deleting it from your computer. Thank you.

This message was secured by **ZixCorp**®.

West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses

Proposed Rule Changes to WV19CSR12

Written Comments Received by E-mail Prior to the Comment Period

and the Response

The Board provided the proposed Fees increases in two news magazines mailed to all registered professional nurses holding a license in West Virginia, over 30,000. In the RN News Magazine the opportunity to provide comments related to these fees was offered in each publication. It is appropriate that they be included.

The following message was sent to Ellen. E-mail address
lamb4thelamb@gmail.com

Dear Ellen,

Thank you for your comment of support for the WV19CSR12 proposed Fee increases for the West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses it is appreciated.

For the Board,

Laura Skidmore Rhodes

Executive Director

From: [WV Board of Registered Nurses](#)
To: [Rhodes, Laura S](#)
Subject: FW: License increase
Date: Wednesday, March 21, 2012 8:20:24 AM

From: Ellen [mailto:lamb4thelamb@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 4:30 PM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: License increase

I was aondering when our licenses would go up. It seems WV is very cheap, not nearly what I pay in other states. I have been following the legislation of the Nurses Halth bill and the only thing I have to say is well done. It's about time WV moves into th 21st century. Nurses need an avenue to wellness that is not available here.

Thank you so much for moving this forward. I applaud you.

Ellen

Laura S. Rhodes, M.S.N., R.N.
Executive Director

email: rnboard@wv.gov
web address: www.wvrnboard.com



TELEPHONE:

(304) 558-3596

FAX (304) 558-3666

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL NURSES
101 Dee Drive, Suite 102
Charleston, WV 25311-1620

July 30, 2012

The message below was sent to the following individuals on the attached list in response to their email messages:

RE: Comments Regarding Proposed Changes to WV19CSR12

Thank you for providing comments to the proposed changes to West Virginia Code of State Rules Title 19 Series 12 Fees for Services Rendered by the Board and Supplemental Fee for the Center for Nursing by the West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses (Board). In response to your concerns about and opposition to the fee increase, the Board wants to share that the agency has not had a renewal fee increase since 1992. All efforts have been made over the years to minimize operational costs. The Board has now exhausted all avenues to minimize costs and finds it necessary to increase fees in order to successfully meet its legislative mandate of public protection.

West Virginia has a current substance misuse epidemic. A portion of the proposed fee increase will be to further fund the Board's monitoring program and establish a non-disciplinary nurse health program, West Virginia Restore (WV Restore). WV Restore is an alternative program for nurses with substance use disorders and qualifying mental health conditions. It is **not** a treatment program. The Board will not be paying for treatment. The nurse health program includes preventive education for all nurses and employers regarding recognizing these issues in themselves and others, and will provide an ongoing monitoring and recovery program for nurses who are able to return to practice after meeting the program requirements. The related law is identical to that of the Physician Health Program (PHP) through the Board of Medicine. That program has documented significant success in addressing this issue among the medical community.

The majority of complaints received by the Board relate to substance use and misuse by registered professional nurses. Prevention and early intervention will assist nurses in getting the help they need before there is any patient harm, there is an addiction, or their workplace is affected. Essentially, the Board is implementing a program intended to save lives. The Board will be seeking the proposed fee increases.

For the Board,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Laura Skidmore Rhodes".

Laura Skidmore Rhodes
Executive Director

INDIVIDUALS THAT COMMENTED ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO WV19CSR12

KAY AMOLE	SUSAN MCCAULEY
LORI APPEGARTH	SANDRA MICK
PAULA ARMSTRONG	KATHY MORRIS
AMANDA BARNETT	GAIL MORRISON
JOY BENNETT	SHELLY
ASHLEY BLAIR	MARILYN MULLENS
LINDA BLAND	SAMANTHA MURPHY
YVONNE BOSLEY	RONNA NEWELL
KATHRYN A. BREWER	EILEEN O'BRIEN PADGETT
DEBORAH BRYAN	KATIE PARSONS
AMANDA CARPENTER	TONI POSTER
SHEILA CAVALET	SHARON POVROZNIK
RONALD CHARNY	DENISE RINEHART
JEANNIE CLARK	ANDREW ROWLETT
JEANNE CLINE	MICK SAUNDERS
HEATHER COLLEY	BEV SCARPELLI
LAWRENCE CONN	BRIAN SIMPSON
ANN CRABTREE	BELINDA SMILEY
MARILYNN CUONZO	SARAH SPENCER
MARY DEAN	BARBARA STEVENS
CAROL DOUGLASS	AMY SUMMERS
ELLEN	J.SUTLER
STEPHANIE FRAGALE	CASSY TAYLOR
LINDA GILLET	ANTONIA UNDERWOOD
LINDA HAGER	KIM URBAN
STEVE HARMAN	JARED VORHOLT
ELAINE HARRIS	BARBARA WALKER
JUDY HILTON	MERCEDES WEIKLE
CARLA HINCHMAN	RHONDA WHITE
RHUNGRY	MELISSA WILFONG
ELLEN INGLES	ELLEN WINNER
MARTHA JENKINS	ELIZABETH WITHROW
JEAN JEANKINS	PATTY WOTRING
NATALIA KELLEY	
MINDY LILLY	
LISA FISHER LONG	
AMY MARTY	
JENNIFER MATHERLY	
ROBIN MAYNARD	

From: [WV Board of Registered Nurses](#)
To: [Rhodes, Laura S](#)
Subject: FW: FEE INCREASE
Date: Friday, May 04, 2012 8:54:25 AM

From: Barbara.Amole@stfh.net [mailto:Barbara.Amole@stfh.net]
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2012 7:30 AM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: FEE INCREASE

I feel this is an unfair increase in fees in this day of economic problems. A small increase would be easier on those nurses who have families to support or spouses that are currently unemployed or retired. I don't feel that nurses should be expected to pay yet more money to support the health problems of others.

Kay Amole RN BSN
Nurse Informatics Specialist
St. Francis Hospital
Charleston, WV 25301

Telephone 304-347-6504
Fax 304-347-6210
Barbara.Amole@stfh.net

This email and any files transmitted with it may contain PRIVILEGED or CONFIDENTIAL information and may be read or used only by the intended recipient. If you are not the intended recipient of the email or any of its attachments, please be advised that you have received this email in error and that any use, dissemination, distribution, forwarding, printing, or copying of this email or any attached files is strictly prohibited. If you have received this email in error, please immediately purge it and all attachments and notify the sender by reply email or contact the sender at the number listed.

From: WV Board of Registered Nurses
To: Rhodes, Laura S
Subject: FW: Fee increase
Date: Wednesday, May 09, 2012 10:15:53 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: Applegarth, Lori [<mailto:LApplegarth@wheelinghospital.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 08, 2012 8:21 PM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Cc: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: Fee increase

I am a RN that has worked in WVA for 30 yrs I am very much against an increase of \$30 per year for Nurse health program If you were increasing to encourage increase enrollment in WV membership I would be in support of this .I am also licensed in Ohio & only pay \$65 for 2 year. This is terrible a increase \$10 per year would be bad enough. Also to penalize those Whom cannot renew by internet is not fair. Many people in WV may have problems renewing this way. Lori Applegarth

From: Armstrong, Paula
To: Rhodes, Laura S
Subject: License fee increase
Date: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 10:30:48 AM
Importance: High

March 27, 2012

Dear Ms. Rhodes,

I am writing you in regards to the article that I read in the March 2012 issue of the WV Nursing newsletter. I do not feel that it is appropriate to raise fees for ALL nurses to benefit SOME nurses. I understand that nurses with substance abuse problems and mental illness need support from the nursing community. I do agree that there are ways we can provide resources to these individuals.

However, I do not feel that raising the renewal fee is the solution to this issue, and especially from \$35.00 per year to \$130.00 every two years. Most of us are not fortunate enough to work at a facility that offers license renewal reimbursement. And with the economy, gas prices, etc., \$130.00 can be extremely hard for nurses to come up with, including myself.

So as a full-time wife, mom, and nurse, I ask that you reconsider this rate increase. An increase for ALL nurses that only benefits SOME nurses, is extremely UNFAIR and INCONSIDERATE!

Thank you !

Paula Armstrong, RN BSN
185 Liberty Avenue
Clarksburg, WV 26301
(304) 624-7322
armstrongp@uhcwv.org

From: [WV Board of Registered Nurses](#)
To: [Rhodes, Laura S](#)
Subject: FW: Ms. Laura Rhodes
Date: Tuesday, May 01, 2012 10:22:01 AM

From: Barnett, Amanda L [mailto:Amanda.Barnett@va.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, May 01, 2012 9:54 AM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Cc: Barnett, Amanda L
Subject: Att: Ms. Laura Rhodes

Attention: Ms. Laura Rhodes:

Hello, my name is Amanda Barnett (WV License # 66786). I recently received the West Virginia Nurse newsletter in the mail and was reading about the fee increases for our license renewal. My concerns are about the possible fee increase for the processing of a paper renewal. When I first renewed my license in 2006 I believe, I did attempt to renew online. However, because of an address discrepancy, your system would not allow me to do so. Allow me to explain. I physically live in Rome Township, Lawrence County, Ohio. However, my address is Crown City, Ohio although we do not live in Crown City. Crown City is actually in Gallia County, Ohio. The way it was explained to us, there had to be a cut off with the postal service so...the street directly across from us has addresses that are Proctorville, Ohio yet everyone on our street has a Crown City, Ohio address. When I entered my Crown City address and then entered the county as Lawrence—it showed a discrepancy obviously and would not let me renew. If there is some way that you could change this in your system so that it lets people enter whatever county they want and not show a discrepancy?—that would be great. I did not want to just leave Gallia county on there knowing that I do not technically live in Gallia county because this would be falsifying information. In addition, if this glitch cannot be fixed, I do not feel that I should be penalized because I have to use the paper renewal and be charged an extra \$40. Thank you for your consideration with this matter. I am hoping that by sending this now, in May, that a solution can be reached well before our next renewal date in October. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Amanda Barnett

Amanda L. Barnett, BSN, RN-BC
Psychiatric Nurse
Mental Health Service
VA Medical Center
1540 Spring Valley Drive
Huntington, WV 25704
(304)-429-6741 Ext. 3136

From: [WV Board of Registered Nurses](#)
To: [Rhodes, Laura S](#)
Subject: FW: Fee Increase
Date: Monday, March 26, 2012 8:24:46 AM

From: Joy Bennett [mailto:joybennett999@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 24, 2012 11:47 AM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: Fee Increase

I have been licensed in WV since June of 1973. Am appalled to see the proposed fee increase to \$130.00 for a 2 year cycle. Please reconsider.

Thank you.
Joy Bennett, RN, BSN, CRNA

From: [WV Board of Registered Nurses](#)
To: [Rhodes, Laura S](#)
Subject: FW: FEE INCREASE
Date: Monday, April 09, 2012 8:43:28 AM

From: Ashley Blair [mailto:BlairA@monhealthsys.org]
Sent: Saturday, April 07, 2012 6:44 PM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: FEE INCREASE

I, along with many of my co-workers at Mon General Hospital, completely disagree with the fee increase!

We have not had a "market adjustment" raise in several years. It is unfair and ridiculous to increase our fees more than double when thousands of nurses aren't receiving yearly increases to our salaries!

Ashley E. Blair, RN, BSN
Clinical Manager, CCU

Disclaimer:

This e-mail and any attachments are confidential and may be protected by legal privilege and are intended only for the use of the addressee (s) named herein. If you are not the intended recipient, an addressee, or the person responsible for delivering this to an addressee, you are hereby notified that reading, using, copying, or distributing any part of this message is strictly prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error, please return the e-mail to the sender and promptly delete the copy from your system.

From: [WV Board of Registered Nurses](#)
To: [Rhodes, Laura S](#)
Subject: FW: FEE INCREASE
Date: Thursday, May 10, 2012 8:02:10 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: Linda Bland [<mailto:lsbland@embarqmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 09, 2012 4:33 PM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: FEE INCREASE

I feel that an increase to \$65.00 a year is to much. Even though I have not worked in WV since 1984 I continue to renew my license. The RN licenses in NC due is \$92.00 for 2 years with ability to work in certain other states.

I feel for the nurses that have drug and mental problems but to increase our dues to \$65.00 a year is a little much especially at this time when the economy is so weak. I would not mind paying \$50.00 a year. If you do increase to \$65.00 a year I may have to stop the renewal of my license. Another 5 years what will it be ? \$200.00 Thank you Linda Bland

From: WV Board of Registered Nurses
To: Rhodes, Laura S
Subject: FW: FEE INCREASE
Date: Thursday, May 10, 2012 8:02:27 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: Linda Bland [<mailto:lsbland@embarqmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 09, 2012 4:43 PM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: FEE INCREASE

I just sent an e-mail saying that I feel the increase is to much.
I mention about NC fees and I should have included that is was \$92.00 for 2 years with the ability to work in certain other states.
Thanks
Linda Bland

From: [WV Board of Registered Nurses](#)
To: [Rhodes, Laura S](#)
Subject: FW: FEE INCREASE
Date: Monday, May 14, 2012 8:23:25 AM

From: Katie Brewer [mailto:ktanne61@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, May 12, 2012 12:39 PM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: FEE INCREASE

I have looked periodically at the website and haven't seen a comment period.

I don't like the increase!

To wait 20 years and the BAM double everything! Don't agree with the legislature making the Board responsible to take care of drug seeking nurses.

I have a little problem with even working with someone who would have gone through a program. How do you trust a co-worker like that.

Kathryn A. Brewer, BSN, RN

From: [WV Board of Registered Nurses](#)
To: [Rhodes, Laura S](#)
Subject: FW: Fee Increase
Date: Thursday, May 03, 2012 11:03:44 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: Debbie Bryan [<mailto:dbryan@wheelinghospital.com>]
Sent: Thursday, May 03, 2012 10:48 AM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: Fee Increase

Dear Board,

While understanding the importance of Drug Rehab programs for nurses in crisis, I am opposed to the proposed fee increase. This increase is almost double the current rate and would put a financial burden on many nurses throughout WV. I am in favor of an increase, but not to \$65 per year--then \$104 per two years. I also have to pay for CEU's in addition to the licensing fee. My salary has not increased and my current employer will not assist in financing the license or the CEU's.

Thank you
Deborah Bryan RN BSN CMAS

From: WV Board of Registered Nurses
To: Rhodes, Laura S
Subject: FW: FEE INCREASE
Date: Thursday, March 29, 2012 2:49:23 PM

From: Carpenter, Amanda [mailto:ACarpenter@fghi.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2012 2:25 PM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: FEE INCREASE

Dear RN Board,

Please do not increase the fee for license renewal. The fee proposed is too costly and doesn't

Seem fair. I highly protest the proposed rate increase.

Thank You,

Amanda Carpenter, RN, BSN

Email Disclaimer

This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please notify the system manager (postmaster@fghi.com). This message contains confidential information and is intended only for the individual named. If you are not the named addressee you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this e-mail. Please notify the sender immediately by e-mail if you have received this e-mail by mistake and delete this e-mail from your system. If you are not the intended recipient you are notified that

From: [WV Board of Registered Nurses](#)
To: [Rhodes, Laura S](#)
Subject: FW: FEE INCREASE :(
Date: Monday, March 26, 2012 8:29:46 AM

From: Sheila Cavalet [<mailto:sheilacavalet@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Saturday, March 24, 2012 5:14 PM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: FEE INCREASE :(

Greetings!

I think that establishing a program to treat nurses with substance use and mental health disorders is a wonderful and caring idea.

BUT I BELIEVE THAT ALMOST DOUBLING THE LICENSE RENEWAL FEE TO ACCOMPLISH THIS MAY BE JUST A LITTLE TOO MUCH. A FEE OF \$50 WOULD BE A LOT MORE REASONABLE.

Sincerely,

Sheila Cavalet, RN, BSN

From: [WV Board of Registered Nurses](#)
To: [Rhodes, Laura S](#)
Subject: FW: FEE INCREASE
Date: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 8:11:23 AM

From: Ronald Charny [mailto:charnyhit@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 5:21 PM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: FEE INCREASE

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to register my protest to the proposed fee increase for RN License renewal. I feel that this is an exorbitant increase in fees compared to the 6 other states in which I have been licensed as an RN! I also feel that it is not my responsibility to provide treatment for individuals who cannot, or will not, control their own behaviors--if they are not capable of performing their duties as a Registered Nurse, for whatever reason, they should not be allowed to practice and other nurses should not be held liable to pay for their treatment!

As an "old timer", I resent having to be responsible for others who no longer honor the commitment and oath of service that they took when they first sought to be a nurse!

I have repeatedly seen concerns expressed that there are not enough nurses to meet the current need in the State of West Virginia, and no one seems to know why. I can give a very good reason for this lack of nurses: pay scales (I am earning 50% less and doing more since I returned to W.V than I was working in Ohio, Maryland, Florida, Arkansas, Missouri or Indiana)--if I still had children to raise, I could not have afforded to move back to WV in 2007. Adding such exorbitant license fees to already low pay scales will drive even more nurses out of the state! I will not be renewing my license this year, or in the future--with the increased fees and no pay increase, I can clear more working in another field.

Sincerely,
Ronald M. Charny, RN
HC-71 Box 77-B
Ellamore, WV 26267

From: [WV Board of Registered Nurses](#)
To: [Rhodes, Laura S](#)
Subject: FW: FEE INCREASE
Date: Monday, April 09, 2012 8:44:18 AM

From: Jeanne Cline [mailto:jeannec@frontiernet.net]
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 6:31 PM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: FEE INCREASE

From \$35 to \$65 is quite a large increase.. I will probably have to go inactive even though I hope to return to nursing in the future.

Once again, it seems like people who do well have to pay for those with drug problems. I am not without sympathy to their plight however, I think it is wrong to make other nurses pay for their problems. \$130 for a 2 year cycle may present problems for nurses, especially those working in lower paying jobs.

From: [WV Board of Registered Nurses](#)
To: [Rhodes, Laura S](#)
Subject: FW: Fee Increase
Date: Wednesday, March 21, 2012 2:05:37 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: nursecolley@frontier.com [<mailto:nursecolley@frontier.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2012 1:50 PM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: Fee Increase

As a nurse who once unknowingly flirted with danger in regard to substance abuse, I understand how easily one can become influenced and addicted. I was taking prescribed painkillers, and although they made me physically sick, I found myself wanting to experience the euphoria the medication gave me. I consider myself one of the lucky ones because I recognized what was happening and stopped taking the medicine.

I think that having a program for others who may need additional assistance is a good idea. However, the fees proposed to be paid to fund it is not such a good idea. The proposed increases in the fees are extreme and will cause hardship on nurses to come up with the necessary monies. I know that I have to be creative to find the yearly fee as it is now, and cannot fathom how I could afford such a steep increase. The license renewal fee is almost double in the new schedule, and if my name were to ever change, I for sure would not be changing it professionally. As for a duplicate license, I would have thought those were obsolete since we can now only look online for our registration and licensure. As I look further down the list, I see a different listing for a name change fee, which drops to \$0. Is this listing the same as the first one?

But I digress...I was under the impression that substance abuse "disorders" or mental health "disorders" were considered medical issues, and as such should and could be covered by one's health insurance. We pay enough for that as well.

Therefore, I would vote AGAINST raising the fees to cover the proposed treatment options.

Thank you for allowing me to voice my opinion.

Sincerely,

Heather Colley, RN, MSN, CSN

From: [WV Board of Registered Nurses](#)
To: [Rhodes, Laura S](#)
Subject: FW: FEE INCREASE
Date: Monday, May 07, 2012 8:21:14 AM

From: Shane Conn [mailto:sconnrn@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2012 4:05 PM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: FEE INCREASE

To Whom It May Concern:

It is of no surprise that a license fee increase is necessary to support the administration cost increases. Despite the claim of many legislators, inflation is quite real as it can easily be spotted in the grocery store and in the scrub shop. Unfortunately, many of West Virginia's nurses have not seen a reflection of the increased dollar signs on their direct deposit slips. We have nursing schools pumping out nurses much faster than many markets can absorb. The combination of a shoddy economy, increased regulations at the federal level and the push for ACOs, unknown future Meaningful Use requirements, Value-Based Purchasing, etc. helps to keep GN hiring low and wages stagnant. Many of WV's nurses are un or under-employed and there's a proposal to increase licensing fees by a whopping 90%!?! Perhaps the goal is \$50 for a renewal fee and we're being shocked by \$65 so that \$50 doesn't seem so bad.

"Approximately 15% of nurses have a Substance Use Disorder." (West Virginia Nurse) As I understand this statement, 85% of WV's registered nurses will have to pay for the 15% that have a substance abuse disorder??? How about we just call this a "Registered Nurse tax." As an individual that has many mistakes in his past, I am not one to judge the actions of another. However, I've never asked for another to pay for my poor judgement and situations.

There were several hundred nurses asking for jobs at nurse unity day; I was there. Unfortunately, there are many more nurses than jobs at this time. I have received over 150 applications for 15 GN positions. It seems to me that this is the perfect opportunity to move to allow those with substance abuse disorders to clean *themselves* up while moving to baccalaureate or graduate level nursing as being the minimum for entry to practice and grandfather those that are already RN's without the proposed education level.

This opportunity may not rise again. Those that can no longer function safely have no business caring for our patients. Rehabilitation does not happen overnight. Let them move aside for the younger nurses that have not had the chance to use their talents nor had an opportunity to repay their tax payer-backed student loans.

Thank you for allowing and giving the opportunity for West Virginia's Professional Registered Nurses voice their opinions and concerns.

Lawrence Conn, RN, BSN, CCRN (almost MBA-HC)

From: Crabtree, Ann
To: Rhodes, Laura S
Subject: FW: The use of addition funds from the increase in licensure fees.
Date: Monday, April 02, 2012 4:02:13 PM

From: Crabtree, Ann
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2012 6:57 PM
To: Laura S.
Subject: The use of addition funds from the increase in licensure fees.

Dear Ms. Rhodes;

I had noticed the proposed increase in licensure fee-what I had missed was how they propose to use the money. This is the most outrageous thing I've ever heard.

I've had the occasion to work addiction recovery and it is an important part of the 12 step program that the addict pay for their treatment.

I personally find it absurd you expect those professionals who respect their profession enough to support the rules and laws necessary to maintain their ethics to pay for those that do not !

These problems arise from things unrelated to the nursing profession. I feel what is proposed is enabling the addicted to continue working where there is an easy path back into their addicted ways.

I feel we are far too easy on those who chose to use their profession to support their habit.

The alcoholic is not sent back into the bar to work . Why are we allowing these addicted persons back where there is easy access to their drugs of choice?
All this does is place more responsibility on those that have to work with them.

Sincerely,
Lois Ann Crabtree, RN
crabtreaa@uhcwv.org

From: [WV Board of Registered Nurses](#)
To: [Rhodes, Laura S](#)
Subject: FW: Fee Increase
Date: Friday, May 11, 2012 8:03:45 AM

From: marilynn cuonzo [mailto:mcuonzo@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 10, 2012 5:30 PM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: Fee Increase

Dear Board:

I hope I am one of thousands who is protesting the fee increase based on Bill 379. and House Bill 4241. I do not feel it is the responsibility of hard working nurses who know how to obey the law by saying no to drugs. I assume the decision may have been based on the constant shortage of nurses to get them back on the job, but regardless of the reason, I am here to protest the added increase to the already increasing fee. This should not be mandatory for nurses to pay, but allowing each nurse to make a decision based on their own financial ability to do so. Thank you,
Marilynn Cuonzo, RN

From: [WV Board of Registered Nurses](#)
To: [Rhodes, Laura S](#)
Subject: FW: Fee Increase
Date: Monday, May 14, 2012 8:24:37 AM

From: Mary E. Dean [mailto:khamush1273@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, May 13, 2012 8:15 AM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: Fee Increase

WV RN Board,

I do not feel that I should have to pay for treating someones drug problem, since they themselves are responsible for their OWN behavior. No one forces anyone to take illegal durgs and we all KNOW the rules. People do not change behaviors like this until they are forced to suffer the consequences of their behaviors. One of the consequences should be going through rehab and PAYING for it themselves, like any other education program. Certainly, I should not have to pay for it!!!!!!

Who came up with the ridiculous idea any way? If you want to throw money at a nursing problem in this state, how about addressing the issue of wretched salaries for nurses in WV, Or maybe dangerous abusive nurse patient ratios in some hospitals, esp in rural areas where nurses have no choice of where they can work because there is only one hospital within reasonable driving distance.

Mary E. Dean, RNC, MS

From: WV Board of Registered Nurses
To: Rhodes, Laura S
Subject: FW: FEE INCREASE
Date: Wednesday, May 09, 2012 10:17:09 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: diannedouglas@ma.rr.com [<mailto:diannedouglas@ma.rr.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 09, 2012 8:19 AM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: FEE INCREASE

I am totally against the fee increase to pay for drug treatment for RNs. I have been an RN in WV since 1969 working mostly full time for 43 years and I am still working. Everyday I went to work I made the decision to honor my license and do the right thing. I knew my license stood for integrity and I was proud of that. People held me to a higher standard AS THEY SHOULD. NOW IT WILL STAND FOR NOTHING. My daughter became an RN 8 years ago and my first advice to her was "always remember to do the right thing and above all else protect your license. I do not feel I should be penalized for someone elses bad choices. At this stage in my life I need all the income I can get to survive. I do not feel I should be punished by increasing my license fee for their treatment. Please reconsier this mandate. My question to you is "is this even legal" for you to do this to the majority of hard working nurses who work everyday to support their families? You know our salaries have not kept pace with those of male dominated careers anyway and we are trying to support families on less. Please reconsider. Carol Dianne Douglas license # 19836 304-677-4059

From: WV Board of Registered Nurses
To: Rhodes, Laura S
Subject: FW: License increase
Date: Wednesday, March 21, 2012 8:20:24 AM

From: Ellen [mailto:lamb4thelamb@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 4:30 PM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: License increase

I was aondering when our licenses would go up. It seems WV is very cheap, not nearly what I pay in other states. I have been following the legislation of the Nurses Halth bill and the only thing I have to say is well done. It's about time WV moves into th 21st century. Nurses need an avenue to wellness that is not available here.

Thank you so much for moving this forward. I applaud you.

Ellen

From: WV Board of Registered Nurses
To: Rhodes, Laura S
Subject: FW: FEE INCREASE
Date: Monday, May 14, 2012 2:14:01 PM

From: Fragale, Stephanie [mailto:FragaleS@wvuhealthcare.com]
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2012 1:15 PM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: FEE INCREASE

RN Board,

I want to comment on the RN Board increase that is being proposed. The fact is that this increase, which would be DOUBLE what we currently pay for license renewal, is ridiculous. There has to be other options for helping those RN's, who have mental/substance abuse problems without raising the license renewal cost for EVERYONE. Are there really that many RN's who have these issues?? Patient safety should be first priority in all of this. If a practicing nurse is having substance/mental issues, maybe losing/suspending their nursing license is what needs to happen to keep patients safe and get the RN into some type of recovery. This proposal is ridiculous, especially with the financial state we live in now! A \$35.00 renewal fee is more than enough to pay and I'm not even certain what all of that money goes towards. I am hoping this renewal increase proposal will be reconsidered and another more reasonable solution will come about. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Fragale RN

Stephanie Fragale RN

Clinical Preceptor

MBRCC

Pager #2126

Phone: 304-598-4515

fragales@wvuhealthcare.com

From: [WV Board of Registered Nurses](#)
To: [Rhodes, Laura S](#)
Subject: FW: FEE INCREASE
Date: Wednesday, March 21, 2012 12:54:33 PM

From: Linda Hager [mailto:llhager@frontier.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2012 12:52 PM
To: Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: FEE INCREASE

IN REGARD TO THE FEE INCREASE, I THINK IT IS TOTALLY WRONG--WHY SHOULD THE NURSES THAT HAVE BEEN DRUG FREE ALL THEIR LIVES HAVE TO BEAR THE EXPENSE OF BAILING OUT THE DRUGGIES? IF YOU WANT TO DO DRUGS, YOU HAVE NO BUSINESS IN NURSING--I HAVE WITNESSED NURSES LOSING THEIR LICENSE AND JOBS BECAUSE OF DRUGS--I HAVE BEEN A VICTIM MYSELF MANY YEARS AGO OF A NURSE TAKING MY PAIN MED AND GIVING ME SALINE--THIS WAS MANY YEARS AGO WHEN I WAS IN LABOR FOR 26 HOURS--I DIDN'T REALIZE IT TIL LATER, WHEN I HEARD THAT SHE WAS DISCOVERED EXCHANGING DEMEROL IN A SYRINGE WITH SALINE WITH PLANS OF KEEPING THE DEMEROL FOR HERSELF--I SUDDENLY REALIZED WHY MY PAIN MED, SUPPOSEDLY BEING GIVEN 2 TIMES TO ME, ONCE IM, AND WAS IV--DID NOT HELP AT ALL--I JUST THOUGHT THAT THE PAIN WAS SO UNBEARABLE THAT THE MED MUST NOT HELP ME--IN A LOT OF CASES, ONCE A DRUGGIE, ALWAYS A DRUGGIE--JUST LIKE AN ALCOHOLIC--I HAVE BEEN A NURSE FOR A LONG TIME, FIRST AN LPN, THEN AN RN--I HAVE SEEN IT ALL, AND WAS VERY NAIVE FOR A LONG TIME--WE ARE ALREADY PAYING FOR THE DRUGGIES THROUGH OUR TAXES IN WV--THAT IS ENOUGH--I SAY MAKE A CHOICE FROM THE BEGINNING--DO YOU WANT TO BE A NURSE, OR DO YOU WANT TO DO DRUGS?--I UNDERSTAND THE NEED FOR A MARGINAL INCREASE IN THE RENEWAL FOR OTHER EXPENSES, BUT I AM INFURIATED THAT IS PROPOSED TO BE ALMOST DOUBLED TO BENEFIT THESE PEOPLE

SINCERELY--LINDA HAGER, RN

From: [WV Board of Registered Nurses](#)
To: [Rhodes, Laura S](#)
Subject: FW: Fee Increase
Date: Monday, March 26, 2012 8:24:32 AM

From: steve harman [mailto:shharman@frontier.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 24, 2012 10:50 AM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: Fee Increase

Dear Board, With respect I do not condone the fee increase because the average wages of an RN are not in line with this drastic rise...gas prices are outrageous & most of northern WV nurses have to drive considerable distances to work...mostly over mountains...please reconsider for the sake of all current members not just ones who live & work around Charleston, Sincerely, RN living @ the bottom of a large mt

From: [WV Board of Registered Nurses](#)
To: [Rhodes, Laura S](#)
Subject: FW: Bill 379
Date: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 8:14:58 AM

From: Judy Hilton [mailto:Judy.Hilton@chhi.org]
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2012 4:44 PM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: Bill 379

Dear Sir/Madam,

I just read of Bill 379 today and I was appalled, and I'm very disappointed in the legislature and the decreased standard of the nursing board. I resent my licensing fees paying for substance abusers rehab. There are many physical ailments and conditions that affect nurses' jobs but I don't see those getting aid. I realize this is a licensing issue; but **the drug abuser made their choice** and sacrificed their license for the drug. How has this even become a subject? Who would even think of such a program? This is ridiculous! There is no place in nursing for a current substance abuser or a past one, much less make the rest of us pay for it. I have been nursing since 1973 and I've seen the harm that substance abuse in nurses can cause. This is a major patient safety issue and a character issue and does nothing to enhance the profession. The Joint Commission & CMS are constantly pushing "patient safety", well this makes that absurd. Also, I want better for my patients, and my loved ones. Do I now have to start asking every nurse if they are currently or in the past been to rehab? Is the nursing shortage so great that we now have to "settle"? I don't believe that. But, I highly resent the board of nursing even expecting the rest of us to fund this. I would much prefer those funds go toward more scholarships, something honorable. Certainly not rehab for drug abusers. I work hard for every dollar I earn and I find this grossly insulting for those of us who have never had any licensing issues. Maybe it's because we have ethics, integrity, honesty, all the attributes drug abusers don't have. I don't have time to "lobby", I'm working. But I do have time to remind you that you represent me too. FYI: In the past on 2 occasions I have emailed the board questions but I never received any reply or assistance with my issues.

Thank you,

Judy G. Hilton, RN
Credentialing
Infection Control
Performance Improvement

Cabell Huntington Surgery Center

Confidentiality: If this e-mail includes the word "Confidential" in the subject line, the information contained in this communication is confidential and/or privileged, proprietary information that is transmitted solely for the purpose of the intended recipient(s).

Unintended Recipient: If the reader of this message is not an intended recipient, or if this message has been inadvertently directed to your attention, you are hereby notified that you have received this communication and any attached document(s) in error, and that any review, dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you received this communication in error, please do the following: (1) contact me immediately at (304-523-1885); (2) return the e-mail to me at judy.hilton@chhi.org; and (3) delete the e-mail from your system.

From: Carla Hinchman
To: Rhodes, Laura S
Subject: increase of liscensure fees
Date: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 11:59:03 AM

To Whom it may concern,

I am writing with concern regarding the proposed increase in liscensure fees for WV Registered Nurses to offset the cost of nurses that are identified as drug abusers. This is absurd, these fellow colleagues are given the best rehab available, recieve the easiest transition back into the medical community and are monitored by registered nurses such as myself once reinstated, and we recieve no extra compensation for this assigned responsibility, life is about choices and the consequences that are a result of ones choices a lesson my children learned early in life. While I understand that the Board is spending man hours and money to carry these fallen colleagues through rehab, suspension, reinstatement etc. I do not feel that it is fair to penalize registered nurses as a group. Had these nurses been arrested as a result of their drug abuse they would have been ordered to pay restitution to the courts, jail fees etc , I believe that this is a better avenue to explore to recover the fees spent in such situations as drug abuse, While nursing is one of the better paying fields for West Virginians, we are grossly underpaid, understaffed, under-appreciated, and overworked, yet people wonder why we are leaving the field in droves. Should this proposal pass I would have to consider relocating to a state that regards nurses a little higher.

Sincerely,

Carla HinchmanRN

From: [WV Board of Registered Nurses](#)
To: [Rhodes, Laura S](#)
Subject: FW: FEE INCREASE
Date: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 8:07:04 AM

From: rhungry@netzero.net [mailto:rhungry@netzero.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 6:37 PM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: FEE INCREASE

I feel the increase for processing a paper renewal for those that have had any type of disciplinary action is unfair because there is no other option given. I would also like to see in a future publication an outline on how the program is going to be run and what the qualifications would be for acceptance into the program. Also how the money collected would be allocated and used for the program. Thank you for your attention to these matters.

From: WV Board of Registered Nurses
To: Rhodes, Laura S
Subject: FW: fee increase
Date: Monday, May 07, 2012 8:23:29 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: ellen ingles [<mailto:wvmtmama@gmail.com>]
Sent: Sunday, May 06, 2012 12:44 PM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: fee increase

I do not agree with the fee increase, the increase is way to much.

As to the treatment of substance use & mental disorders, most insurances provide for treatment, so why should the Board be providing this?

Lastly, I have a reprimand on my license causing me to file my renewal by paper, so now on top of the purposed fee increase I will continue to be punished every time I renew my license by having to pay an additional fee.

Ellen Ingles, RN


From: [WV Board of Registered Nurses](#)
To: [Rhodes, Laura S](#)
Subject: FW: FEE INCREASE
Date: Friday, May 04, 2012 8:54:40 AM


From: Martha.Jenkins@stfh.net [mailto:Martha.Jenkins@stfh.net]
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2012 7:53 AM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: FEE INCREASE


I feel this is an unfair increase in fees in this day of economic problems. A small increase would be easier on those nurses who have families to support or spouses that are currently unemployed or retired. I don't feel that nurses should be expected to pay yet more money to support the health problems of others.

Martha (MJ) Jenkins, RN
Nurse Informatics Specialist

333 Laidley Street
Charleston, WV 25301

 Office (304) 347-6177
Office (304) 347-6709

 Fax (304) 347-6210

 Martha.Jenkins@stfh.net

SAINT FRANCIS HOSPITAL

We make a Living by what we get. We make a Life by what we give.
Rose

From: WV Board of Registered Nurses
To: Rhodes, Laura S
Subject: FW: FEE INCREASE
Date: Monday, May 07, 2012 8:22:53 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: Lisa Fisher [<mailto:lfisher@arh.org>]
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2012 5:37 PM
To: Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: FEE INCREASE

Re: The proposed and excessive nearly doubling of the renewal fee:

Can you provide data regarding the number of RN's you perceive as needing treatment for substance use and mental health disorders, as well as the number/percentage of those nurses "in need" who don't already have that benefit coverage through their health insurance at work in order to justify the new fee schedule?

My RN co-workers and I feel this amount of increase is too much and the rationale questionable.

Thank you,
Lisa Fisher Long RN

From: WV Board of Registered Nurses
To: Rhodes, Laura S
Subject: FW: Fee Increase
Date: Wednesday, May 02, 2012 8:28:37 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: Amy Marty [<mailto:blueeyesmom05@aol.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 01, 2012 7:23 PM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: Fee Increase

I have been a registered nurse for 32 years and have never once regretted my decision to become one. I do not know what else I would have done with my life. I live on the Ohio - West Virginia border so I carry two nursing licenses. The company I work for has offices on both sides of the river. I am totally amazed at the proposed rate increase. I understand when a small increase is required but the proposed amount left me with my mouth hanging open. My income is precious to me. I work very hard at my job and have never been tempted to misuse my position to acquire drugs. I am not sympathetic to those who do. I do not feel that I should have to contribute to a program that I will never benefit from. You may think this sounds harsh but I hold myself to a high standard as should my colleagues. Raising all nursing license fees to assist those who do not uphold their nursing oaths is beyond my comprehension. I am totally against this enormous fee increase and may have to stay in the state of Ohio full time. Thank you for your time.

Amy Marty RN

From: [WV Board of Registered Nurses](#)
To: [Rhodes, Laura S](#)
Subject: FW: Fee Increase
Date: Wednesday, April 11, 2012 8:26:47 AM

From: Matherly, Jennifer [mailto:Jennifer.Matherly@GenesisHCC.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2012 2:41 PM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: Fee Increase

Dear Board office,

I recently read the updated material stating that there is a potential for an increase in our licensure fees. I feel that I must voice my opinion on this matter.

I understand that there are currently nurses experiencing issues with substance abuse and/ or mental disorders that may affect their capabilities of maintaining their job status and or license and that this is a serious issue. I also understand that no one can foresee their future and that sometimes there are life experiences that influence our behavior or that may trigger mental disorders. I realize that no one is immune to these situations including myself.

With that in mind I feel that it is understood when we become licensed nurses we did so to help others and that we are to maintain a certain amount of professionalism. We are a part of something very respected and trusted. For this reason I feel that it is a responsibility for nurses to be held accountable for their actions and to seek help before they put anyone else at risk. I feel that it is unfair to ask other nurses that are working hard to maintain their incomes in this economy to provide treatment for those nurses to protect their licensure when in actuality their medical insurance should cover these treatments. **Most employers in fact offer these treatments free to their employees.**

In summation: ***I strongly oppose the fee increase.***

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Jennifer Matherly, RN, NPE
Raleigh Center
1631 Ritter Drive
Daniels, WV 25832
Phone 304-763-3051
Fax 304-763-2865
jennifer.matherly@genesishcc.com

This e-mail and any attachments may contain information which is confidential, proprietary, privileged or otherwise protected by law. The information is solely intended for the named addressee (or a person responsible for delivering it to the addressee). If you are not the intended recipient of this message, you are not authorized to read, print, retain, copy or disseminate this message or any part of it. If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify the sender immediately by return e-mail and delete it from your computer.

From: Maynard, Robin
To: Rhodes, Laura S
Cc: Maynard, Robin
Subject: licensure fee increase
Date: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 10:39:06 AM

Dear Ms. Rhodes----My name is Robin Maynard RN, I have been a FULL TIME RN for 30 years. Many years of hard work and dedication to our profession. I find it unjust and unwarranted to increase our license fee to pay for other individuals bad choices. Every individual needs to take personal responsibility for their choices. I ache and have pain everyday from years of nursing care(direct patient care) and I feel it unjustified to pay for others mistakes----therefore I oppose the increase in our licensure fee. Thank you Robin Maynard RN

From: WV Board of Registered Nurses
To: Rhodes, Laura S
Subject: FW: Proposed fee increases
Date: Monday, May 07, 2012 9:15:05 AM

From: Susie McCauley [mailto:samccauley@ccmh.org]
Sent: Monday, May 07, 2012 9:03 AM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: Proposed fee increases

To Whom It May Concern:

In the most recent edition of the WV Nursing News I read the article regarding the proposed RN licensure fee increase.

I have no concerns or issues with the renewal fee increase from \$35.00 to \$65.00. My only concern is the \$45.00 fee for processing a paper renewal. I could understand a \$5.00 fee but \$45.00 is a ridiculously high charge and is unacceptable for various reasons. Those reasons include:

---"forcing" people to use a credit or debit card. There are still some individuals who do not choose to have either of these. This is "encouraging" people to use credit

in a world where there is too much credit used.

---some people (yes, even nurses) do not have computers at home.

I request that you reconsider the proposed fee for processing a paper renewal.

Thank you.

Susan A. McCauley, RN BSN, MS
Director Human Resources
Camden Clark Medical Center
Memorial Campus
800 Garfield Avenue
Parkersburg, WV 26101

Phone: 304-424-2663
Fax: 304-424-2825

From: [WV Board of Registered Nurses](#)
To: [Rhodes, Laura S](#)
Subject: FW: Fee Increase
Date: Thursday, March 22, 2012 8:08:57 AM

From: Sandra Mick [mailto:wwustu@msn.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2012 9:45 PM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: Fee Increase

I should not have to pay more for a nursing liscense just because another nurse has a substance problem or a mental health disorder. Not only do I have to work extra because these nurses are off work, but now I have to pay extra? If these nurses need more of the board's time, then maybe they should pay for your time. How about fining them to get the extra money?
Sandra Mick, RN

From: kathyl@frontiernet.net
To: Rhodes, Laura S
Subject: Re: Senate Bill 379 & House Bill 4241
Date: Thursday, March 29, 2012 3:11:23 PM

So sorry to hear that. When was the news letter mailed with the information about these bills.
Sent on the Sprint® Now Network from my BlackBerry®

-----Original Message-----

From: "Rhodes, Laura S" <Laura.S.Rhodes@wv.gov>
Date: Thu, 29 Mar 2012 13:07:29
To: kathyl@frontiernet.net<kathyl@frontiernet.net>
Subject: RE: Senate Bill 379 & House Bill 4241

Dear Ms. Morris:

SB 379 passed during the 2012 Legislative session.

Laura

Laura Skidmore Rhodes

Laura Skidmore Rhodes
Executive Director
WV RN Board
101 Dee Drive, Suite 102
Charleston, WV 25311
www.wvrnboard.com
304-558-3596
Fax: 304-558-3666

-----Original Message-----

From: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2012 12:48 PM
To: Rhodes, Laura S
Subject: FW: Senate Bill 379 & House Bill 4241

-----Original Message-----

From: kathy morris [<mailto:kathyl@frontiernet.net>]
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2012 12:39 PM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: Senate Bill 379 & House Bill 4241

I am not in favor of these Bills. I don't feel that it is my responsibility to pay for someones substance abuse disorder. I hope these people can get the help they need but not at my expense. People need to take responsibility for their own actions.

I feel that is the problem with our country right now! Everyone wants someone else to pay for their mistakes!

From: WV Board of Registered Nurses
To: Rhodes, Laura S
Subject: FW: FEE INCREASE
Date: Thursday, May 10, 2012 8:03:39 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: Gail Morrison [<mailto:gmorrison314@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, May 09, 2012 8:15 PM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: FEE INCREASE

I oppose this marked fee increase for registered nurses license renewal. This is an exorbitant amount. Nurses are often underpaid, overworked and understaffed, therefore I believe this is an unfair request. I believe a reasonable increase such as \$20.00 per year would be fair. Is it not possible for the Nurse's Association to aid in the funding of this program? Is it not possible for aid in to come from other sources???

From: WV Board of Registered Nurses
To: Rhodes, Laura S
Subject: FW: FEE INCREASE
Date: Thursday, May 10, 2012 8:04:11 AM

From: Ronni Moss [mailto:ronni81880@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 10, 2012 12:34 AM
To: Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: FEE INCREASE

To whom it may concern,

I just recently heard that the fee to renew our licenses is going to increase from \$35 to \$65 per year. The fee has been this way for years. Why all of a sudden are you going to raise the fees double? There is no talk of pay increases for nurses, but that is not going to stop the fees from doubling! This is going to make a lot of the WV nurses mad. I do not feel that this is a good decision.

Thanks for listening.
Shelly

From: WV Board of Registered Nurses
To: Rhodes, Laura S
Subject: FW: FEE INCREASE
Date: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 8:11:45 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: Marilyn [<mailto:wvarmyrn65@aol.com>]
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 5:23 PM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: FEE INCREASE

To Whom It May Concern,

I absolutely disagree with increasing our annual renewal fee or any fees for that matter to pay for any individuals drug or mental health problems. Why should that be my problem? I don't take drugs and if I need mental health care I can seek that out and use my private insurance to pay for it. Let's quit making people dependent on others and make them take responsibility for their choices and their medical issues. If you increase fees to pay for people's mental health care then where does it stop? An increase for my thyroid medicine, my friend's cancer treatments. ??? You get the idea.

Respectfully,
Marilyn Mullens, RN, BSN
Cool Ridge, WV

From: [WV Board of Registered Nurses](#)
To: [Rhodes, Laura S](#)
Subject: FW: FEE INCREASE
Date: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 12:46:32 PM

From: Samantha Murphy [mailto:samanthamurphy925@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 10:49 AM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: FEE INCREASE

I am outraged at this fee proposal. The percentage of increase is ridiculous. I can barely afford to renew now as it is, much less to increase it and change it to 2 year renewals. How am I supposed to come up with \$130 for license renewal?! Also, if you want to help substance abusers then I don't want to foot the bill. I work my tail off day in and day out and have personally witnessed a substance abuser become "reformed" and take the job I want. Yes, I may believe in second chances for people, but it is not my responsibility to make them happen. The end, period, thank you, Samantha Murphy, RN.

From: [WV Board of Registered Nurses](#)
To: [Rhodes, Laura S](#)
Subject: FW: Fee Increase
Date: Friday, May 11, 2012 1:00:17 PM

From: Newell, Ronna [mailto:RNewell@wheelinghospital.org]
Sent: Friday, May 11, 2012 10:02 AM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: Fee Increase

Dear Fellow Nurses,

I am OPPOSED to the fee increase. I don't see it is our responsibility to cover expenses for other people's medical problem. Where would it end? Would we start covering other medical issues?

Many institutions have their own policy on monitoring their nurses with a history of substance abuse. It is the board's responsibility for the licensure of nurses only!

Sincerely,
Ronna J. Newell
1104 Tomlinson Ave.
Glen Dale, WV 26038

From: WV Board of Registered Nurses
To: Rhodes, Laura S
Subject: FW: FEE INCREASE
Date: Thursday, April 05, 2012 2:36:20 PM

From: Eileen Padgett [mailto:epadgett@franciscan.edu]
Sent: Thursday, April 05, 2012 1:44 PM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: FEE INCREASE

The proposed fee increase is outrageous!! That is almost a 100% increase--I wish my salary increased that much in 5 years!!!

I am in support of the 2 year cycle, but not the amount--PA is \$65 q 2 years!! Your proposal is not a reasonable increase.

The proposed donation for the program for RNs with SA and mental health disorders should be voluntary--I have Psoriatic Arthritis--perhaps there should be a donation for RNs suffering with this disorder

Please reconsider,
Thank you,
Eileen O'Brien Padgett

From: Povroznik, Sharon
To: Rhodes, Laura S
Subject: license fee increase
Date: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 8:18:04 AM

dear ms. rhodes This letter is in response to the proposed licensure fee increase currently being considered in the senate. I would like to state my disagreement to this proposed increase,i would like to say that i am in no way opposed to anyone seeking and receiving medical and or psychological help and trying to resolve any issues that may affect their nursing practice and more importantly their life. Unfortunately nurses are not immune to problems with drugs and alcohol and we are often of the mindset that we must take care of everyone else and we wind up neglecting ourselves. That being said, i do not feel that putting an increase on our license fee is fair, what about personal responsibility? Money should be spent on educating nurses about the dangers of substance abuse and there should be education in nursing schools for students about drugs and alcohol. Mistakes are made, choices are made and there are consequences for everything we do in life, but we cannot be expected to carry the load for everyone else, medical insurance recognizes and pays for mental health treatment and we are being put upon with this proposal. Thank you for allowing me to voice my opinion and i trust the board will think about the importance of personal responsibility and how carrying a load of this magnitude is neither productive or fair to the majority of hard working nurses in the state of west virginia.
sincerely Sharon Povroznik RN Jane Lew ww 26378

From: WV Board of Registered Nurses
To: Rhodes, Laura S
Subject: FW: FEE INCREASE
Date: Wednesday, March 21, 2012 3:32:21 PM

From: Denny Rinehart [mailto:drinehart@zoominternet.net]
Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2012 2:20 PM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: FEE INCREASE

I would like to comment on the proposed fee increase that was listed in the latest edition of the WV RN Nursing News, Volume 6, Number 1.

A \$30 increase seems excessive to me. If all my bills increased by 86%, I would not be able to afford to pay any of them. I also resent increasing the fees to fund a program to provide treatment options for nurses who have substance abuse issues or mental health issues. If these nurses are currently working, they have insurance that may provide this treatment option. West Virginia nurses should have a say in how our money is spent, especially when this will only affect a small portion of nurses.

I have not received a pay increase in over 10 years. The board could be funding a cause that affects the majority of nurses, such as lack of pay increases, long hours with no breaks, no lunch relief and understaffing. There are health problems that are more prevalent in our nursing population than drug abuse and mental health issues.

I plan on making sure all the RN's in my current facility read page 6 and become aware of this proposed fee increase. I am sure many RN's will be unaware and surprised when the renewal time arrives and the fee is \$65.00. I have already talked to several nurses who are unaware of this proposal.

Denise Rinehart, RN

From: [WV Board of Registered Nurses](#)
To: [Rhodes, Laura S](#)
Subject: FW: FEE INCREASE
Date: Monday, April 02, 2012 8:36:27 AM

From: Andrew Rowlett [mailto:obxburn1987@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 02, 2012 1:57 AM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: FEE INCREASE

We already are allowing numerous nurses their license back after an 'investigation' into their drug discrepancies. And now you are proposing that we PAY FOR THE ONES THAT ARE ADDICTS?!? Are you being directly paid by Obama or are you inadvertently too cowardice to stand up against liberal hogwash? Just because I am not a drug addict does NOT Mean I should pay for those who are. That is morally reprehensible and SHAME on those who are allowing such personally-irresponsible-morally-bankrupt legislation.

Andrew Rowlett, RN

From: [WV Board of Registered Nurses](#)
To: [Rhodes, Laura S](#)
Subject: FW: FEE INCREASE
Date: Friday, May 04, 2012 8:54:46 AM

From: Michelle.Saunders@stfh.net [mailto:Michelle.Saunders@stfh.net]
Sent: Friday, May 04, 2012 8:09 AM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: FEE INCREASE

I am writing in regards to the proposed fee increase. I am a single mother of one with no assistance of any kind from any government program and every change or increase in money coming out of my budget directly affects my child and myself. Please take situations such as mine into consideration when determining monetary matters. We are impacted directly by any monetary increase in fees that would be enforced. I am requesting that the fees for RN License Renewal remain as they are with no increase.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to voice my concerns.

Sincerely, Michelle "Mick" Saunders

Mick Saunders, RN
Physician's Informatics Specialist
Palliative Care Consultant
Office: (304)347-6561
Pager: (304) 353-2270
e-Mail: michelle.saunders@stfh.net

From: [WV Board of Registered Nurses](#)
To: [Rhodes, Laura S](#)
Subject: FW: FEE INCREASE
Date: Thursday, March 29, 2012 2:48:52 PM

From: Beverly.Scarpelli@stfh.net [mailto:Beverly.Scarpelli@stfh.net]
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2012 2:03 PM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: FEE INCREASE

I am in total opposition to our RN rate being raised to cover the cost of the RN program for substance use disorders or mental health disorders. I felt the \$35.00 has a big jump for the license and now you want 65? In this economic depression, it has been difficult to make ends meet and now this? Most RN's have insurance, especially if it is voluntary, they would still be covered. Have the program work with these insurances to cover and pay for the treatment.

Bev Scarpelli RN
304-347-6591

From: [WV Board of Registered Nurses](#)
To: [Rhodes, Laura S](#)
Subject: FW: FEE INCREASE
Date: Monday, April 09, 2012 1:33:11 PM

From: bsmiley2@frontiernet.net [mailto:bsmiley2@frontiernet.net]
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2012 11:12 AM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: FEE INCREASE

I am responding to the proposed increase to our WV Nursing License renewals. While operation costs may have increased since the last increase in 1992, nearly doubling of the fee to \$65.00 per year is extremely excessive. I understand that this is also designed to support treatment options for nurses with substance use disorders but I do not choose to support this initiative. If the State Legislature passed this bill, let the State pay for the resource with existing tax dollars...not more taxes or fees. I feel that my WV tax dollars are excessive compared with surrounding states and our incomes certainly have not nearly doubled since 1992. Just passing the bill and then trying to find someone to pay for it is unacceptable. We should not have to pay for another government program!

Respectfully,
Belinda Smiley, RN

From: [WV Board of Registered Nurses](#)
To: [Rhodes, Laura S](#)
Subject: FW: FEE INCREASE
Date: Wednesday, April 04, 2012 2:06:23 PM

From: Spencer, Sara K (Employee Health TVH) [mailto:sara.spencer@camc.org]
Sent: Wednesday, April 04, 2012 1:21 PM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: FEE INCREASE

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to comment on the proposed fee increase that would be used to fund nurse health programs for treatment of RNs with substance use disorders and mental health disorders that may affect their ability to safely practice nursing.

I have read Senate Bill 379 and House Bill 4241 and did not find information that indicates the cost of these programs be covered by increasing the cost of licensure. I am interested in why the Board has chosen to increase the cost of licensure in order to fund these programs. The information in our newsletter indicates that this increase is required in order to establish this program as well as continue Board operations. These appear to be two separate and distinct issues and I don't feel they should have been "lumped together" when informing licensees of the fee increase.

I am not opposed to an increase in the fee in order to continue Board operations. I was also not opposed to the 2005 increase for the West Virginia Center for Nursing. I am, however, opposed to the fee increase for the establishment of the nurse health program. What is the projected income from these increases and what percentage of that income goes to Board operations versus establishment of nurse health programs? Are there other state boards of nursing that use license fees for this purpose?

I firmly believe that I should not have to pay for treatment of a condition (as in the case of substance abuse) which results from immoral, illegal, and unethical behavior. Frankly, I am incredulous at being asked to fund this program for this purpose. Without researching this statement, I feel comfortable in saying that programs are available for this type of treatment that are either taxpayer funded or available through medical insurance coverage.

The lack of accountability is becoming very pervasive in our society. This fee increase for the funding of nurse health programs is yet another example of the fact that personal accountability has become a foreign concept to many and has been replaced by a "it's not my fault and you need to fix it" mentality.

Please reconsider the use of increasing licensure fees to be used for this purpose.

Sincerely,

Sara Spencer, RN, BS, CIC

Confidentiality Note: The information contained in this message may be privileged and confidential. If this e-mail contains protected health information, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited, except as permitted by law. If you have received this communication in error, please notify the sender immediately by replying to this message and deleting it from your computer. Thank you.

From: WV Board of Registered Nurses
To: Rhodes, Laura S
Subject: FW: FEE INCREASE
Date: Friday, March 30, 2012 12:41:25 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: jsutler@frontier.com [<mailto:jsutler@frontier.com>]
Sent: Friday, March 30, 2012 12:09 PM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: FEE INCREASE

I do not see why I have to pay for treatment options for Registered Nurses having substance use disorders. They should pay for it their self. This is ridiculous!

From: WV Board of Registered Nurses
To: Rhodes, Laura S
Subject: FW: FEE INCREASE
Date: Wednesday, April 18, 2012 10:45:04 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: Toni [mailto:toni_11@frontier.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2012 10:28 AM
Subject: FEE INCREASE

I am against a fee increase to pay for treatment for RNs who have substance use disorders and mental health disorders. If they are nurses, they learned in school the reasons against using drugs other than when needed for an illness and under a doctor's care. I do not believe that others should be responsible for someones bad choices in life. We already have enough government programs that take from the worker's pay and give to others.

Antonia Underwood

From: [WV Board of Registered Nurses](#)
To: [Rhodes, Laura S](#)
Subject: FW: FEE INCREASE
Date: Monday, May 14, 2012 3:27:34 PM

From: Rhonda White [mailto:rwhite@kvctc.edu]
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2012 3:16 PM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: FEE INCREASE

I oppose the allocation of money collected from the proposed fee increase for license renewal for the purpose of substance abuse disorders and mental health disorders.

Although sympathetic, I feel the burden of the cost should be the responsibility of the nurse with the problem.

Also, I believe that creating a program that nurses can voluntarily enter before "there are effects on nursing practice" is a ridiculous statement. Any nurse that has a substance abuse problem more than likely comes to work still under the influence. The fact that no incident has occurred yet to require disciplinary action does not make it ok to enter a program and continue practicing as a nurse. It is only a matter of time before a patient is harmed. We all have choices, and there are consequences when we make poor ones.

Rhonda M. White, MSN, RN

From: Wilfong, Melissa
To: Rhodes, Laura S
Subject: Fees
Date: Tuesday, April 10, 2012 9:14:57 AM

I do not feel it appropriate to raise license fees to fund treatment of other nurses. I understand addiction is a disease, but I do not feel I should be responsible for paying for it. Do we or don't we already pay for too much. I pay for insurance. I feel the people need to take more responsibility for their own actions. I completely disagree with the idea of funding others treatment. I feel this would open a gate and would only worsen the addiction problem.

Melissa Wilfong, RN
Recovery Room Nurse Manager
Ext. 2340, Pager 120
Wilfongm@uhcwv.org

From: WV Board of Registered Nurses
To: Rhodes, Laura S
Subject: FW: FEE INCREASES
Date: Thursday, March 22, 2012 8:06:15 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: Ellen Winner [<mailto:ewinner@suddenlink.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2012 5:16 PM
To: Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: FEE INCREASES

Dear Rn Board,

In response to the notice concerning fee increases, I am opposed to your position that upstanding, law-abiding, non-impaired nurses be required to pay for the rehabilitation of impaired nurses. I understand the nursing shortage is of critical importance to the issues of patients' and working nurses' welfare, and, therefore, to the impaired nurse being given an opportunity to holistically heal the mind, body and spirit.

What I cannot in good conscience agree with is your choice to impose increased nursing fees to raise revenue for this purpose. It is demoralizing to all nurses who have struggled for many years, since the time of Florence Nightingale, to provide the hard work necessary to give the best care possible and conduct themselves in a professional, drug and alcohol free state at all times. I have been a good nurse, dedicated to the profession for a long time. I have many productive years of nursing remaining, if I choose, but this type of mandate that you are imposing on us, is just the impetus for nurses like me to want to take early retirement. I do believe that Impaired nurses should have the right to correct their behavior, but the cost incurred during that process should not cause anymore hardship on the rest of us.

There have been many years that I only received a 2% cost of living raise in pay, if anything. Please consider reducing your figures for the license renewal fee to no more than \$50.00, since we already give \$10.00 of that to the WV Center for Nursing.

Thank you for your attention.

Respectfully,

Ellen Winner, RN

From: WV Board of Registered Nurses
To: Rhodes, Laura S
Subject: FW: FEE INCREASE
Date: Friday, March 30, 2012 10:56:44 AM

From: Mike Withrow [mailto:elizabethwithrow@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, March 30, 2012 10:44 AM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: FEE INCREASE

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in response to an article that I read in our news letter regarding a proposed rate increase. My understanding from the article is that the fee increase will be used to set up programs for RN's having substance use disorders, and mental health disorders that may affect their ability to safely practice nursing. The article also states that this program would be free of disciplinary action to those RN's that wish to participate, provided a complaint has not been filed against them.

I strongly OPPOSE a potential rate increase for this purpose.

I feel that if there are substance use disorders this is not **MY** responsibility nor our nursing boards responsibility to provide assistance for their potentially illegal behaviors. How would this be monitored to determine if there was illegal drug use? If found to be illegal drug abuse, how could this not be reported to legal authorities? I feel that mental health issue's could be addressed through the RN's health insurance coverage, if they are in fact working. If they are not, then there would not be a patient safety issue and again it is not **MY** responsibility nor our nursing boards responsibility to provide assistance for mental health care.

I do not oppose a rate increase for educational purposes such as the rate increase in 2005 where the funds were directed to the WV Center for Nursing. I would also support any needed funds that the board felt necessary for the continued management of their office.

PLEASE consider my thoughts regarding this matter.

Elizabeth Withrow, RN

From: WV Board of Registered Nurses
To: Rhodes, Laura S
Subject: FW: FEE INCREASE
Date: Wednesday, May 23, 2012 12:50:20 PM

From: PWOTRING1322@comcast.net [mailto:PWOTRING1322@comcast.net]
Sent: Tuesday, May 22, 2012 9:00 PM
To: WV Board of Registered Nurses
Subject: FEE INCREASE

Dear Board,

I am responding to the news item concerning possible licensure increases for those nurses needing substance abuse and mental health treatments. I object!! To increase license fees by nearly 100% for this reason is ridiculous. A reasonable fee due to normal cost-of-living would be understandable, but to pay for rehab (which I truly believe it would be more this reason than just mental health issues) is very unfair. This is a slap in the face to many of us who have been dedicated, hard-working, ethical nurses, fully aware of our responsibilities from the day we graduated from school, not allowing any substance to jeopardize our jobs. I DO understand the needs of the mentally ill as I have worked 20 years in that aspect of nursing. I also FIRMLY believe a nurse KNOWS what he/she is doing when he/she makes a decision to use a substance and therefore, do not agree it is a "mental illness". Stealing a patient's medication, false documentation, or using on the job are some examples of crossing legality issues and deserve little mercy.

It is my observation that a nurse may receive treatment at his/her respective facility when needed and often more than one chance is afforded that nurse. By "allowing nurses to voluntarily enter into a program before there are effects on their nursing practice and without disciplinary action", as stated in the WV Nurse publication, is telling them "since you have not gotten caught yet", you may get help. Any willful, wrong action by such a nurse is illegal and that person should be disciplined according to the law. Those with "true" mental health issues are most often able to obtain the medication, hospitalization, and therapy they need.

I respectfully ask that the Board reconsider this proposed fee increase for this purpose and in doing so, honor those of us who have always chosen to do the right thing. Each and every one of us must be held responsible for our choices.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Patty

Wotring, RN