

Submitter: Mara Poynter

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: SB703

As a nurse and leader, I personally value equity. However, it is an expectation that our students and eventually colleagues be competent in communicating with patients and other healthcare workers. I am not a proponent of a Spanish or an "alternate language" exam. Despite the healthcare working environment, I depend on my support team/person. I rely on this team/person for patient care in order to maintain patient safety and I expect my colleague to read, write, and speak English. The benefit of the Bill is definitely for the test taker, this is obvious. In addition, I also believe that allowing the exam to be taken in another language(s) simply shifts the burden to the employer and those working with a non-English reading, writing, speaking employee.

I know we need more CNA's and I do not believe this proposed Bill of a Spanish Nursing Assistant Exam is the answer. In my opinion, it will simply cause more issues for those at the bedside providing care.

Thank you for your time,
Mara Poynter RN