

16A-5141_4

 Outlook**[External] 16A-5141 (Nursing Education Programs)****From** Judy Oprisko <JOpris@Allied-Services.org>**Date** Thu 1/30/2025 2:56 PM**To** ST, RegulatoryCounsel <RA-STRegulatoryCounsel@pa.gov>; rbrown@pasen.gov <rbrown@pasen.gov>; Repmullins@pahouse.net <Repmullins@pahouse.net>**Cc** Judy Oprisko <JOpris@Allied-Services.org>

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Judith Pachter Schulder, Counsel
State Board of Nursing
P.O. Box 69523
Harrisburg, PA 17106-9523

Dear Ms. Pachter Schulder,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my concern regarding the proposed changes to the admission requirements for Practical Nursing (PN) programs in Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing proposal that would require prospective students to have completed two mathematics courses, including Algebra, and two physical sciences courses, specifically Chemistry and Physics.

While I understand the intention to elevate educational standards, I believe this change would have a detrimental impact on a significant portion of the population, particularly older students returning to education and those with a GED. These individuals represent a vital segment of our current and future nursing workforce.

Imposing such stringent requirements would reduce access to nursing programs for these students, making it harder for them to enter or advance in the nursing field. This would have a direct and negative effect on addressing the ongoing nursing shortage, as many of these students are seeking a pathway to career advancement or further education. Given the critical need for qualified healthcare professionals, we must not impose barriers that would limit access to nursing education, especially for nontraditional students.

I respectfully ask that you reconsider The proposed regulation, 16A-541 (Nursing Education Programs). The impact on students and the nursing workforce could be significant and counterproductive to our goal of addressing the nursing shortage in Pennsylvania. I urge you to carefully consider the long-term effects of these changes before moving forward.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your consideration of the concerns raised. I appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on this important issue and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,
Judy Oprisko
Allied Services
Chief Human Resources Officer
100 Abington Executive Park
Clarks Summit, PA 18411

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