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 Outlook**[External] 16A-541(Nursing Education Programs)**

**From** Lucia MenichelliBales <lmenichellibales@ctclc.edu>  
**Date** Wed 1/29/2025 4:05 PM  
**To** ST, RegulatoryCounsel <RA-STRegulatoryCounsel@pa.gov>

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Judith Pachter Schulder,

I hope this message finds you well. My name is Lucia, and I am a nursing instructor at the Career and Technology Center of Lackawanna County. I am writing to express my concern regarding the proposed requirement for math and science prerequisites for admission into Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) programs.

I have had the privilege of witnessing firsthand how the LPN program has transformed the lives of many of our students, many of whom may not have had the opportunity to pursue a traditional college RN program. These students often face various challenges that make it difficult for them to meet the entrance requirements of more conventional nursing programs. The LPN program has provided them with an accessible and meaningful pathway into the nursing profession, helping them achieve their professional goals.

Imposing mandatory math and science prerequisites would have a detrimental impact on the diversity and success of our program. Many of our students do not possess these prerequisites upon entering the program but have proven their ability to succeed nonetheless. We have had numerous students who, despite lacking the typical academic background in these subjects, have excelled in the LPN program and gone on to pass their state board exams. These students represent a pool of individuals who otherwise may have been excluded from entering the nursing field.

Requiring math and science prerequisites would significantly reduce the number of students who could benefit from this program and severely limit their opportunities to enter a rewarding and in-demand profession. As an instructor, I can attest to the fact that the support, hands-on training, and mentorship offered in our program are far more valuable than standardized academic requirements in helping students succeed.

I urge you to consider the long-term consequences of this decision and to keep the LPN program accessible to individuals who may not have had the chance to pursue other nursing education routes. The current structure of the program, without these prerequisites, has proven effective in providing a meaningful career path to many students who otherwise would be excluded from nursing opportunities.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter. I am more than happy to discuss this further or provide additional insights from my experiences with our students.

Sincerely,  
Lucia Menichelli-Bales, BSN, RN  
Nursing Instructor  
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