

March 7, 2012

Honorable Mike Folmer
Pennsylvania State Senator
Senate District 48

Dear Senator Folmer:

Pennsylvania's 213,000 registered nurses remain the Commonwealth's largest, and by many measurements, most influential collection of medical professionals. When critical decisions are made affecting our patients and their families, we strongly believe these knowledgeable professionals deserve a seat at the table.

For the last five years, Pennsylvania State Nurses Association (PSNA) has been an active and vocal participant in developing the landmark Health Information Exchange. With the collaborative efforts of the Commonwealth and PSNA, essential changes in language, and more importantly substance, can be made to the committee structure of Senate Bill 8.

In order to best serve the Commonwealth's patients and nurses, RNs and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) must be included within the proposed committee structure as nurse designated positions. As the largest group of electronic medical records users, the expert opinion and leadership of nurses is an essential component to Senate Bill 8.

Not having nurse designated positions would be an oversight by this committee and the legislature. The inclusion of qualified RNs and APRNs is a more accurate reflection of healthcare practitioners in the Commonwealth.

PSNA strongly urges the committee to consider our proposal for the inclusion of nurse designated positions in Senate Bill 8. I am available to discuss any questions, concerns or comments you may have. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 717-798-8780 or at bsnook@panurses.org. PSNA looks forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Betsy Snook, MEd, MSN, RN
Chief Executive Officer
PA State Nurses Association

Cc: