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TO: Representative Erik Seversen, Chairperson and Members of the Assembly Health Committee
FROM: Gina Dennik-Champion, MSN, RN, MSHA
Wisconsin Nurses Association Executive Director
DATE: November 13, 2013
RE: Support of AB 249/SB 212 - instructional programs for nurse aides and granting rule-making authority.

On behalf of the Wisconsin Nurses Association, I would like to thank you, Chairperson Seversen for holding this public hearing on AB 249 which addresses changes to Wisconsin State Statute Chapter 146 by creating a system for articulation for Certified Nurse Assistant training program requirements. AB 249 and the companion bill SB 212 provide for an efficient and effective pathway for out-of-state Certified Nurse Assistants to enter Wisconsin's caregiver workforce. The Wisconsin Nurses Association had the opportunity to meet with Senator Harsdorf and provide feedback as part of her bill development process on SB 212. We are very pleased and we thank Representative Bernier for introducing AB 249 in the Assembly. AB 249/SB 212 will provide the following benefits:

- Supports Wisconsin's 120 hours of instruction to work as a Nurse Assistant in Wisconsin.
- Allows for the Certified Nurse Assistant student to complete only the additional 45 hours of required instruction versus repeating 75 hours of instruction already completed, passed, and paid for.
- The Nurse Assistant training agency must test for competency, knowledge and skills that are required to work in the role as a nurse assistant in Wisconsin.
- The Nurse Assistant will enter Wisconsin's workforce sooner by completing and passing only the additional required course work.
- Nurse Assistants are in high demand. This legislation will help address the shortages that exist in the Nurse Assistant workforce.

AB 249 possesses the necessary structure to support quality care and services that these important caregivers provide. It also supports the Registered Nurse who is responsible for delegating and supervising the assigned nursing tasks to the nurse assistant providing patient care.

WNA again appreciates Representative Bernier for introducing this legislation and for those members of the legislature who have signed on in support. We ask that members of the Assembly Health Committee support AB 249 by voting yes for passage out of your committee. Thank you again Chairperson Seversen for holding this hearing and for allowing WNA to submit testimony in support of AB 249.