

**From:** Sandy Rousse  
**Sent:** Friday, September 4, 2020 2:55:30 PM  
**To:** Ann Cummings  
**Subject:** H.607 information

Dear Ann,

I've been following bill H.607 and from what I heard about testimony from Liz Cote, AHEC, she didn't shed a positive light on the nursing scholarships and the funding of them. I want you to know that it has helped nursing in home health and CVHHH's staff in particular. Here are some of the reasons why this program is beneficial for our industry:

- Nursing schools are focused on nursing in hospital settings , not home health. Trust me, I'm trying to change this 😊. These scholarships appeal to those staff that are looking to pursue nursing from either a LNA or LPN level. We've had 2 instances from a PCA level. Now in conjunction with CVHHH's student loan repayment program started last year with a minimal amount of support these AHEC scholarships are an additional boost to offsetting the costs.
- Home health nursing is a 2<sup>nd</sup> career for some. We have a nurse that pursued this route and between our tuition reimbursement or student loan program, and nursing scholarship through AHEC she was able to pursue this career and get support in reducing her debt at the end. She is a single mom with 2 children.
- Also, we know the market is competitive and frankly home health can't compete with hospitals for salaries so the more options we can support nurses with related to decreasing their student loan debt through employer programs as well as these other scholarships is significant in our ability to recruit and retain workforce.

I strongly support continuing to fund this program. I do have to say when I began researching this opportunity through AHEC a few years ago, Liz was not overly responsive and when she did respond her emails and phone conversations went in circles! All to find out if home health staff could apply and when the last time a scholarship was awarded to a home health clinician. It had been years!

Once again, thank you Ann. You know how to reach me if you need anything!

All the best,  
Sandy

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