

Advocacy Assignment

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Senator Thomas Norment Jr.

District Office

P.O. Box 6205

Williamsburg, VA 23188

Dear Senator Norment,

I am Heaven Keener, a nursing student at Old Dominion University. I am writing to you about senate bill 1294. This bill requires all applicants for nursing license' provide fingerprints and personal identifiers along with the background check. I am supporting this bill for many reasons. It can be hard to believe that nurses can be criminals. Nurses care for people at their best and worst times. We know many private details of our patient's lives and in some specialties enter the patient's home. Nurses are held at a high standard and are a gateway of trust. There are some ill individuals out there that tarnish this vision. Although we have licensure standards now, I believe fingerprinting will be forceful way keeping some from falling through the cracks.

There will be many objections to this bill from first time licensees. The initial cost of licensure and examination fees in Virginia are about \$390.00. Having to pay additionally for fingerprinting may cause some upset and add more dilemma to stressful time. According to California's Board of Nursing costs of fingerprinting consist of \$49.00 to the FBI and an additional \$5-45.00 for the actual finger printing. (Board of Registered Nursing, 2015) Next,

would be the invasion of privacy rights. An argument against a similar bill states, "the essential argument for requiring fingerprinting and criminal history checks lies in the State's unstated suspicion that each nurse is guilty of some unknown crime unless she proves her innocence by submitting to fingerprinting." (Alysia, 2011) If you are innocent, then what is it that brings about fear when being fingerprinted?

Kansas implemented fingerprinting along with the background check in 2009. From 2009-2012 they had 11,846 fingerprints of record. 1,724 of which had a criminal history. Student's applying for first time licensure made up 1,273 of that number, 371 had not listed a criminal history of their initial application.(Emory) Without fingerprinting, some of these applicants with criminal history may have been able to obtain licensure. A prophylactic way of preventing possible crime in such a trusted profession. There are also reports of nurses using their compact license to move state to state once their license has been suspended for acts of malpractice. Fingerprinting would keep a federal record of these nurses ensuring that there is a way to suspend the license nationwide.

Fingerprinting will not only protect families but will also protect nurses. Having fingerprints on federal file will protect the nurse from identity fraud. When applying for licensure, the use of fingerprints also yields faster return of results. Many other licensed professions can benefit from this bill such as physicians, attorney's, and brokers.

There are other suggestions that could buy in more support for this bill. As an example, allowing employers access to the background checks will improve their ability to hire qualified and safe individuals. Although this increases cost for the applicant, it creates a safer environment for patients and staff. Which is what all nurses strive to imply for our patients. I believe this bill is geared toward the safety to everyone involved. You have my full support.

Sincerely,

Heaven Keener

References

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Honor Code:

I pledge to support the Honor System of Old Dominion University. I will refrain from any form of academic dishonesty or deception, such as cheating or plagiarism. I am aware that as a member of the academic community it is my responsibility to turn in all suspected violations of the Honor Code. I will report to a hearing if summoned.

Signature _____ Heaven Keener _____

N492: Advocacy Assignment Grade Rubric

Grading Criteria	Comments	Points
<p>Introduction</p> <p>Captures the reader's attention; clarifies the importance of the bill and issue for population, uses a thesis statement to state the author's position.</p> <p>[10 points]</p>		
<p>Analysis of opposing arguments</p> <p>Arguments against the writer's position are addressed and explanations are given as to why the opposing argument is not as compelling, relevant or valid as the writer's argument. Citation should be used as rationale for con position.</p> <p>[20 points]</p>		
<p>Argument and Support for your position</p> <p>Writer provides a compelling, evidence-based case for his/her position. Includes issue analysis and a thorough explanation of why the reasons selected are the most important and relevant to issue. Minimum requirements: Include at least two reasons for supporting the issue with rationale for each. Citations should be used as rationale for pro position.</p> <p>[30 points]</p>		
<p>Conclusion</p> <p>Arguments of the position are synthesized into a conclusion to explain how the evidence provided necessitates a specific course of action.</p> <p>[10 points]</p>		
<p>Use of Source Material</p> <p>Writer has used at least three (3) sources to support the pro and con arguments; sources are cited in text and reference page per APA style.</p> <p>[10 points]</p>		

Organization Adheres to business letter format; is interesting, easy to read and flows from one idea to the next. [10 points]		
Title Page, Spelling, Grammar, Honor Code Correct title page format, spelling, and grammar. Adheres to 2 page limit (except title, reference, honor code and rubric pages). [10 points]		
Final Grade: (100 points)		