

March 16, 2005

To: Senate State Administration Committee
Senator Carolyn Squires, Chairperson

Dear Madam Chair and Committee Members:

It is with great regret that I can not attend the committee meeting today.

The physician's office I function in as a nurse does not have available nursing coverage to allow me to leave today, and I feel that my primary duty is to my employer and my scheduled patients. While I'd like to be there today to reply to your questions and concerns, I can not.

I think I would be safe to assume you will continue to identify the same two concerns today as you did at the previous committee meeting: conflict of interest and missing the first two board meetings. My replies today would be the same as they were then.

I was unable to attend the first board meeting because of the hardship on my employer and patients with leaving the office for three days in the middle of the week on short notice. I was appointed in September 2003 and the first meeting was in October.

The second meeting was not attended because the child of one of our office nurses died, and I felt she needed to deal with the death rather than work those days covering for me to attend a meeting.

As far as the conflict of interest, I am unaware of any conflict and see my experience and education as an EMT as a benefit to the Board of Nursing. Often issues arise with overlapping scopes of practice with other health care providers; a board member with a working knowledge of another health care provider brings a better understanding and resolution to the issues. My role on the Board of Nursing is one of "public safety" and never solely nursing or any other single health care provider. My role is protecting the public through cooperation of the entire health care team to provide a safe and efficient outcome for the patients they encounter.

Once again, I'm sorry I can not attend today, and I sincerely hope that the committee recommends my confirmation to the full Senate.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



Roberta Threet, LPN

Member, Montana Board of Nursing

Clancy, Montana