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VIA E-MAIL: APA.SenatePresident@legis.gov

March 2, 2018

Senator John Alario, Jr, President
Louisiana Senate
P.O. Box 94183
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9183

Dear Senator Alario,

Pursuant to R.S.49:968 (D)(1)(b), the Louisiana State Board of Nursing (LSBN) hereby announces its plan to proceed with the rule-making process by proposing rule changes to Chapter 34, Section 3419, Subsection A, Subparagraph 1. and Chapter 34, Section 3419, Subsection D, Subparagraph 3, *Admission Criteria*, Subparagraph i. - j under Title 46, Professional and Occupational Standards, Part XLVII by finalizing the January 20, 2018, Notice of Intent that was promulgated on pages 142- 144 of the *Louisiana Register*.

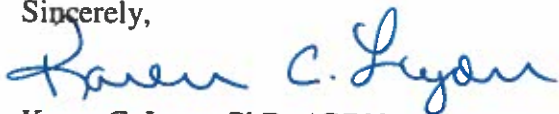
This rule-making is informed by authority of the LSBN granted in R.S. 37:918 to develop, adopt and revise rules and regulations in the Louisiana Nurse Practice Act. One proposed change will update the terminology. The medical term has changed from Chemical Dependency to Substance Use Disorder, Mild, Moderate or Severe according to the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders Fifth Edition (DSM 5) Edited and Published by the American Psychiatric Association in 2013*. The other change will correct a factual error. The factual error that will be corrected is as follows: "No substitution of narcotic medications destined for patients for the purpose of diversion" will be removed from the Louisiana Administrative Code since suboxone, an opioid medication, is used to treat narcotic (opiate) addiction. Chapter 34, section 3419 offers an alternative to disciplinary proceedings for nurses. The Recovering Nurse

Program (RNP) was established to assist registered nurses or student nurses who have demonstrated actual or potential inability to practice nursing with reasonable skill and safety to individuals because of illness or as a result of any mental or physical condition, so that such nurses or student nurses can be treated and return to the practice of nursing in a manner which will not endanger the public health, safety and welfare.

The LSBN has not received comments opposing the proposed change to Chapter 34, Section 3419, Subsection A, Subparagraph 1. and Chapter 34, Section 3419, Subsection D, Subparagraph 3, *Admission Criteria*, Subparagraph i. - j. The LSBN is not required to conduct a hearing pursuant to the Revised Statute 49:953(A) (2).

Subject to legislative oversight by either the House or Senate Health and Welfare Committee, the board intends to submit a Rule to the Office of the State Register for publication. Please contact Dr. Karen Lyon at 225-755-7576 if the board may be of any assistance to you concerning this rule.

Sincerely,



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