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November 18, 2021

Joseph Krenitsky, Esq.
Chair SUNY Erie/ECC Paralegal and Legal Studies Program
Department Chair
SUNY Erie Community College
45 Oak Street, Room 113
Buffalo, New York 14203

Re: Nurse Paralegal Certificate Program

Dear Mr. Krenitsky:

I am writing this letter in strong support of the new proposed nurse paralegal certificate program for SUNY Erie. I am a partner of the personal injury law firm Andrews, Bernstein, Maranto & Nicotra PLLC, and have been practicing exclusively personal injury litigation for more than 20 years. My firm consists of seven attorneys and 17 support staff, including one nurse/legal assistant and one nurse/paralegal.

Our practice is one steeped in medical terminology, and requires understanding of medical concepts and procedures. Every member of my support staff deals with some issues involving injuries and medical records on a daily basis. Having a program that would produce potential employees knowledgeable with medical terminology and the ability to review medical records and charts will be greatly beneficial to our legal community. Every claim we handle involves some level of physical, and sometimes emotional, injuries that often require a deep dive into causation, and understanding the doctor's opinions on prognosis and permanency, etc. Any office that handles personal injury claims, as well as, medical malpractice, Workers Compensation, disability claims and nursing home cases will benefit greatly from a nurse paralegal certificate holder.

From the standpoint of a partner that is involved in our new employee hiring, a candidate with a background such as this would stand out from the others. The two nurses currently in my employment had no law office practical experience before becoming a member of my firm. However, coming in with a paralegal education, as well as, having a nursing background will assist in integrating them immediately, allowing them to become important assets. They are often charged with drafting a discovery and discussing medical-legal issues with clients on more

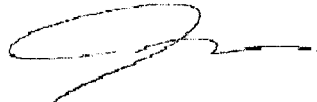
complex cases.

I rely on them to provide detailed medical chronologies, interpreting medical charts, and assisting our attorneys with a more in-depth understanding of some of the medical issues involved in the claims.

I will be happy to discuss my support for this program in greater detail upon request.

Very truly yours,

ANDREWS, BERNSTEIN, MARANTO & NICOTRA, PLLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard A. Nicotra', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Richard A. Nicotra, Esq.

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