

Testimony of Coralie Giles, RN  
President, Maine State Nurses Association  
Vice-President, National Nurses United

**IN SUPPORT OF LD 589**

“An Act to Make Agricultural Workers and Other Related Workers Employees Under the Wage and Hour Laws”

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Labor  
Hearing: April 2, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

Dear Chair Tipping, Chair Roeder, and distinguished members of the Committee on Labor,

On behalf of more than 4,000 registered nurses and health care professionals providing patient care in our state, the **Maine State Nurses Association/National Nurses Organizing Committee/National Nurses United (MSNA) urges the Committee to support LD 589, “An Act to Make Agricultural Workers and Other Related Workers Employees Under the Wage and Hour Laws.”**

This bill would include farm workers in the wage and hour laws that protect other employees, including minimum wage, overtime protections, and the right to rest breaks. Agricultural workers perform grueling, dangerous work for long hours without most of the rights or benefits that other workers enjoy. As nurses and health care professionals, we hold that **it is unacceptable to grant a worker fewer legal rights for doing a job that is essential to society.** The shameful decades of excluding agricultural workers from employment rights should end now.

**We strongly urge the Committee to support LD 589.**

Sincerely,

*Coralie Giles RN*

Coralie (Cokie) Giles, RN  
President, Maine State Nurses Association  
Vice-President, National Nurses United