

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

IN SUPPORT OF LD 625

“An Act Supporting Education for the Rural Health Care Workforce”

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
Hearing: April 3, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.

Dear Chair Ingwersen, Chair Meyer, and distinguished members of the Committee on Health and Human Services,

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 625 “An Act Supporting Education for the Rural Health Care Workforce.”

LD 625 would allocate funds to support rural health care education in several ways, including by supporting the long-term sustainability of rural clinical preceptorship programs to provide support for students in undergraduate and graduate nursing programs. Clinical preceptorship is an important part of nursing education that allows students to gain experience in real care settings, under the guidance of active bedside registered nurses. Having sufficient clinical preceptorship slots in rural areas is important to supporting local nursing schools and allowing students to gain experience and make connections in rural care settings where they may choose to work after graduation.

We urge the Committee to support LD 625.

Sincerely,

Coralie Giles RN

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