



LD 1311 An Act to Expand Maine's Health Care Workforce by Improving Educational Opportunities

Testimony in Support

April 4, 2025

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and members of the Health and Human Services Committee my name is Melissa Pelkey, and I am submitting testimony in support of the bill before you today. I am a registered nurse, and I serve as President of the Organization of Maine Nursing Leadership (OMNL). OMNL represents nursing leaders from patient to policy. It is a professional organization that directs the course for nursing by promoting sound healthcare policies within our organizations and at the local, state, and national level. Towards this Mission, OMNL creates an environment that encourages collaborative partnerships.

Creating the nursing workforce for the future is a collaborative partnership between Maine's nursing education programs and hospitals/health service providers. A foundational component of nursing education are clinical experiences sponsored by hospitals, nursing homes and other health care settings. Nurses who are employed in health care roles precept nursing students in their practical experience of caring for patients. Statewide this represents thousands of hours of clinical preceptor time provided by hospitals and health care settings each semester to nursing students in our facilities. This bill provides resources for preceptors, development of clinical education leaders and resources to support innovation in training the future workforce.

We support this important legislation.

Thank you.