

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

In SUPPORT of LD 1720, “An Act Regarding Benefits and Training for Long-term Care Workers”

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
Hearing: May 2, 2025 at 10:00 a.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 1720.**

Long-term care facilities and nursing homes are often dangerously understaffed. Salaries and benefits are rarely competitive, and nurses do not want to work in conditions where they risk patient safety and their licenses providing care to too many patients. LD 1720 would improve recruitment and retention of staff by allowing long-term care workers access to the state group health plan and the Maine Public Employees Retirement System. Health insurance and retirement benefits are strong recruitment and retention tools and allowing more workers access to existing state systems is a practical way to support workers in these essential jobs.

The bill’s language access provisions will also be helpful to increase staffing by allowing more nonnative English speakers to access and succeed in long-term care jobs.

Sincerely,

Coralie Giles RN

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