

Testimony of Brynne O’Neal  
Regulatory Policy Specialist, Maine State Nurses Association / National Nurses United

**In Support of LD 2208, “An Act to Offset Federal Cuts to Health Insurance for Certain Maine Families and Seniors”**

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services  
Hearing: February 26, 2026, 1:00 p.m.

Dear Chair Bailey, Chair Mathieson, and distinguished members of the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services,

On behalf of more than 4,000 registered nurses and health care professionals providing direct patient care in our state, the **Maine State Nurses Association/National Nurses United (MSNA)** writes in strong support of LD 2208.

**Keeping hospitals open and ensuring that everyone in Maine can access health care are top priorities for registered nurses and our communities.** Nurses have been appalled to see funding for Affordable Care Act subsidies and health care programs like Medicaid slashed in the federal budget.<sup>1</sup> While the ultimate solution to our fractured health care system is single-payer health care, the threat from federal budget cuts requires immediate action. We support Maine providing additional funding to keep hospital services open, reopen services that have closed, and maintain Affordable Care Act and Medicaid coverage for Maine residents.

The health of Maine’s rural communities depends on keeping our hospitals open and providing all essential services. The Rural Hospital Stabilization Program is an important step to protect rural hospitals that are at risk of closing units or closing their doors in the face of federal budget cuts. Importantly, LD 2208 requires that hospitals provide evidence that a grant will help them keep services open or reopen services as well as sufficient cost data so Maine agencies can ensure the funding goes where it will make the most difference to Maine patients.

Our communities face a drastic reduction in quantity and quality of health care services as a result of the federal budget cuts. Nurses want to invest in a healthy society based on care and compassion. **We ask for your support of LD 2208 to keep our hospitals open and to help nurses care for all patients.**

Sincerely,



Brynne O’Neal  
Regulatory Policy Specialist  
Maine State Nurses Association / National Nurses United

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<sup>1</sup> National Nurses United, Nation’s largest nurses union condemns Republican budget bill (July 3, 2025), <https://www.nationalnursesunited.org/press/nations-largest-nurses-union-condemns-republican-budget-bill>.