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**TESTIMONY OF KIM ESQUIBEL
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STATE BOARD OF NURSING
DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL AND FINANCIAL REGULATION**

**NF/NA L.D. 1688
An Act to Encourage Continuing Education Relating to Certain
Infection-associated Chronic Conditions for Physicians and Nurses
Presented by Representative Rana**

**BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES
Public Hearing: April 30, 2025 at 1:00 pm**

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and members of the Committee. I am Kim Esquibel, Executive Director for the State Board of Nursing. I am pleased to offer the following comments on LD 1688.

The State Board of Nursing ("BON") licenses and regulates licensed practical nurses, registered professional nurses and advanced practice registered nurses in Maine. The Board is composed of 9 members – 5 actively practicing registered nurses, 1 actively practicing advanced practice registered nurse, 1 actively practicing licensed practical nurse and 2 public members. The Board's mission is to protect the public by licensing and regulating nurses, and approving prelicensure nursing education programs.

As written, the bill requires the Board of Osteopathic Licensure, the Board of Licensure in Medicine and the State Board of Nursing to encourage licensees and applicants for relicensure to attend continuing education relating to specific infection-associated chronic conditions.

In general, the Board does not require continuing education ("CE") in any specific subject area with the exception of the mandated CE requirement enacted by the Maine Legislature in 2015 requiring 3 hours of opioid related CE for licensees who prescribe opioids. The Board relies upon the professionalism of its licensees to identify and complete CE relevant to their specific scope of practice, area of certification and patient population they serve.

When a public health need arises to widely, or in a targeted manner, disseminate time-sensitive information and clinical resources to the appropriate nurses, the BON already works with the

Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) to help distribute specialty-specific information:

- issuing CDC alerts to all licensees when urgent issues may affect LPNs, RNs, and APRNs in their nursing practice;
- issuing alerts to specialty specific APRNs when specialty specific information needs to be shared; and
- posting CDC clinical resources and guidance information on its website.

The BON provides notifications to its licensees of free continuing medical education modules on the Board of Licensure in Medicine’s website which is available to all professions.

Finally, the BON collaborates with several nursing associations (MNPA, ANA-Me, OMNL, etc.) who hold biannual and/or annual conferences on emerging topics/issues. The BON can certainly request, as it has done so in the past, that continuing education topics relating to specific infection-associated chronic conditions be considered.

The BON does not believe this bill is necessary for the reasons stated above.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments on LD 1688. I am happy to answer any questions now or at the work session.