



Joseph Baldacci
Senator, District 9

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Testimony of Sen. Joe Baldacci introducing

LD 1769, "An Act to Ensure Data Reporting for Temporary Nurse Agencies."

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

May 2, 2025

Good morning Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. My name is Joe Baldacci, and I represent Senate District 9, which includes Bangor and Hermon. I am pleased today to introduce LD 1769, "An Act to Ensure Data Reporting for Temporary Nurse Agencies."

This bill builds upon previous legislation that I sponsored (LD 451 from the 131st Legislature), which required temporary nurse agencies to register annually with the DHHS/Division of Licensing and Certification. The legislation also required these temporary staffing agencies to submit data to the Department, including the total number of employees placed in health care settings in Maine, average duration, state of licensure for those employees, total and average amounts charged each quarter to the health care facility, total and average wages paid to the employee each quarter, total and average stipends paid to the employee each quarter, etc.

The original bill had a report date of no later than December 6, 2023 for DHHS to report to the HHS Committee. It was interpreted as a single report. This bill, LD 1769, would make that annual report to the HHS Committee an ongoing requirement.

Lawmakers need to make policy decisions based upon facts and data so this ongoing reporting requirement will help ensure accurate and up-to-date data is available. As you know, long term care facilities continue to face serious staffing challenges. Workforce levels are the lowest the sector has seen in over a decade. We estimate we lost between 10 and 15% of caregivers during the pandemic, and temporary agency staffing continues to be high in long term care, and across other health care sectors as well.

I thank you all for your time and consideration.