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February 22, 2022

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan and Members of the Education Committee,

Testimony –In Support of LD 1807- "An Act to Expand Nursing Education Programs"

My name is Dr. Valerie Fuller. I am writing to you today as a private citizen from Falmouth to request your support of LD 1807 "An Act to Expand Nursing Education Programs".

As most of you know, Maine is facing a significant shortfall of nurses. According to a 2017 analysis by the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, the state is facing a shortage of 3,200 Registered Nurses by the year 2025. The nearly two-year long battle has only worsened this crisis with many nurses leaving the profession secondary to burnout and stress.

This legislation would provide ongoing funds to expand nursing education programs within the Maine Community College System and potentially double the number of graduates from those programs in order to address the current nursing shortage.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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