

Testimony on Behalf of the Maine State Nurses Association/National Nurses United Before the
Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

In CONCERN for: LD 1602, An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Stakeholder
Group Convened by the Emergency Medical Services' Board on Financial Health of Ambulance
Services

Public Hearing: Tuesday, May 2, 2023 at 1:00 PM, Cross Building, Room 220

Senator Bailey, Representative Perry and distinguished members of the Committee on Health
Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services:

My name is Coralie Giles. I am a registered nurse of nearly 45 years, President of the Maine
State Nurses Association, Vice-President of National Nurses United, and a resident of Brewer. I
am providing testimony in concern regarding LD 1602 on behalf of Maine State Nurses
Association/National Nurses United (MSNA/NNU), representing 4,000 nurses and caregivers
across the state of Maine. MSNA/NNU requests that you amend the bill to clarify that no-
transport calls and community paramedicine do not include caring for hospital-at-home patients.
Otherwise, we urge you to vote "No" on LD 1602.

MSNA/NNU is concerned that LD 1602's requirement that carriers reimburse no-transport calls
and community paramedicine could be used to support dangerous hospital-at-home programs.
Hospital-at-home programs allow hospitals to replace the inpatient hospital care that acute-level
patients need, including 24-hour care by a registered nurse and immediate emergency response,
with two daily visits by nurses or community paramedics and a 30-minute emergency response
time.¹ Hospital-at-home patients are at serious risk of worsening illness or even death, while
patients treated in a hospital receive regular assessments by nurses and doctors. Additionally,
response time is crucial when a patient's condition deteriorates. Allowing patients to wait up to
30 minutes for an ambulance could be deadly. In contrast, a patient in a fully operational hospital
would receive an immediate emergency response.

Maine State Nurses Association/National Nurses United thanks the committee for accepting
these comments.

Sincerely,



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

¹ For an in-depth discussion of Medicare hospital-at-home programs, see National Nurses United's report at
https://www.nationalnursesunited.org/sites/default/files/nnu/documents/0922_Medicare_HospitalAtHome_Report.pdf.

Coralie Giles
Maine State Nurses Association/National Nurses United
LD 1602

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