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**TESTIMONY OF JENNIFER RIGGS, MSN, RN, BSHCA  
CNO MAINEGENERAL MEDICAL CENTER/  
CEO, MAINEGENERAL COMMUNITY CARE**

**In Support Of**

*LD 119 - An Act to Increase Faculty in Nursing Education Programs by Amending the  
Nursing Education Loan Repayment Program*

February 9, 2021

Members of the Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business Committee, my name is Jennifer Riggs and I am the Chief Nursing Officer at MaineGeneral Medical Center in Augusta.

The issue of finding sufficient nursing staff is a challenge all across Maine and given our aging population we must find a solution to ensure that our communities have access to high quality nursing care now and in the years to come.

Maine's nursing programs are working collaboratively with hospitals and other clinical settings to increase enrollment but a major limiting factor to our success is the shortage of nursing faculty. Unless the faculty shortage is addressed, we will unnecessarily continue to deny qualified candidates from pursuing a career in nursing and we will continue to experience workforce shortages for nurses across settings.

The Nursing Education Loan Repayment Program is a key solution to address Maine's nursing workforce shortage.

Please vote **LD 119** "Ought to Pass."

Thank you.