

Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business

In SUPPORT of: LD 1797, An Act to Expand Maine's Health Care Workforce by Expanding Educational Opportunities and Providing Tax Credits

Public Hearing: Tuesday, May 2, 2023 at 10:00 AM, Cross Building, Room 206

Senator Curry, Representative Roberts and distinguished members of the Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business:

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 supporting LD 1797 on behalf of Maine State Nurses Association/National Nurses United (MSNA/NNU), representing 4,000 nurses and caregivers across the state of Maine. On behalf of MSNA/NNU, I ask you to vote "Yes" on LD 1797.

LD 1797 includes positive provisions to support nursing educators and students. LD 1797 provides funding for Maine's existing loan repayment program for nurse educators and extends funding eligibility to part-time faculty. LD 1797 also appropriates funds to support preceptors. Nursing schools often cannot educate all the students who are interested in becoming nurses due to an insufficient number of nurse educators and preceptors and clinical sites for clinical experience. Nursing educators are often underpaid relative to their expertise and what they can earn at the bedside. The expansion of the loan repayment plan may allow more nurses to serve as faculty and allow more students to be educated as nurses.

LD 1797 also creates a tax credit of up to \$500 per year for newly licensed nurses working in a licensed health care facility in Maine. New nurses are often paying off student loans. We appreciate the provision to give these new nurses a break on their taxes and reduce their financial burden as they start their careers at the bedside.

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

Sincerely,

Coralie Giles RN

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

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Maine State Nurses Association/National Nurses United
LD 1797

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