

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

IN SUPPORT OF LD 588

“An Act to Enact the Agricultural Employees Concerted Activity Protection Act”

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Labor
Hearing: April 2, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

Dear Chair Tipping, Chair Roeder, and distinguished members of the Committee on Labor,

On behalf of more than 4,000 registered nurses and health care professionals providing patient care in our state, the **Maine State Nurses Association/National Nurses Organizing Committee/National Nurses United (MSNA) urges the Committee to support LD 588, “An Act to Enact the Agricultural Employees Concerted Activity Protection Act.”**

LD 588 would recognize agricultural employees’ right to engage in concerted activity for the purpose of mutual aid or protection without interference or retaliation by their employers. That would mean workers could not be disciplined for activities like talking with each other about wages, asking for improvements to their working conditions, or conferring with organizations or government agencies that could help them. The right to concerted activity is the bedrock of workers’ ability to work together to protect their health and safety and improve the conditions of their work. While the bill falls short of recognizing the right to form a union and bargain collectively, which should be extended to every worker, it is an important step forward.

We urge the Committee to support LD 588.

Sincerely,



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