Nursing Update
State and Federal Legislative Issues

Lisa Harvey-McPherson RN, MBA, MPPM
Legislative Committee Chairperson
OMNE Nursing Leaders of Maine
128th Session Maine Legislature

- Not much has changed
- Senate - Republican Majority 18 seats, 17 Democratic Seats
  - Two Third Majority = 23 votes
- House - Democratic Majority 77 seats, 71 Republican Seats, 3 Independents
  - Two Third Majority = 100 votes
128th Legislature

Leadership

Senate
- President Michael Thibodeau – R Waldo
- Republican Majority Leader Garret Mason – R Androscoggin
- Republican Assistant Majority Leader Andre Cushing – R Penobscot
- Democratic Minority Leader Troy Jackson – D Aroostook
- Democratic Assistant Minority Leader Nathan Libby – D Androscoggin

House
- Speaker Sara Gideon – D Freeport
- Democratic Majority Leader Erin Herbig – D Belfast
- Democratic Assistant Majority Leader Jared Golden – D Lewiston
- Republican Minority Leader Ken Fredette – R Newport
- Republican Assistant Minority Leader Ellie Espling – R New Gloucester
Maine’s Nurse Legislator

- Rep. Anne Perry is a Family Nurse Practitioner working at Calais Regional Medical Services in Calais, ME.
- Rep. Anne Perry currently serves on the Health and Human Services Committee. She previously served in the Maine State Legislature from 2003-2010, where she served as House Chair of the Joint Standing Committees on Insurance & Financial Services and Health & Human Services.
- Rep. Perry is a graduate of University of Southern Maine with BSN and Husson College with MSN
Governor’s Biennial Budget

- **Baseline - DHHS Budget is Balanced**
- Proposals Harmful to Hospitals
  - Tax Increase
  - Reduces Funding for Critical Access Hospitals
  - Eliminates Facility Payment for Hospital Employed Providers
  - Reduces Eligibility for MaineCare
  - **MHA Statewide Estimate $99 Million Dollar Impact over the Biennium**
- Further Reduces Public Health Nursing Positions
- 83-95% Reduction in Public Health Contracts – Fund for Healthy Maine
  - Tobacco Cessation
  - Obesity
  - Youth Empowerment
  - School Based Health Centers
Bills of Interest

• Food Insufficiency
• Death with Dignity
• Funding for Home Care
• Bills Related to Maine’s Opioid & Heroin Crisis
• Bills Related to Legalization of Recreational Marijuana
• MaineCare Expansion

• Legislature.maine.gov
Legislation Creating Maine’s Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact

• An Act To Adopt the Interstate Nurse Licensure Compact

• Sponsored by Senator Amy Volk
• Chair of the Labor, Commerce Research & Economic Dev. Committee
Maine’s Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact

- Maine is one of 25 states participating with the original nurse licensure compact (2001)
- The Nurse Licensure Compact creates a model that allows nurses to practice freely among member states while still allowing states to retain authority to enforce the State’s Nurse Practice Act.
- The National Council of State Boards of Nursing has created an enhanced nurse licensure compact intended to bring all 50 states into the compact
- All nurses practicing under a multistate license must meet a minimum set of licensure requirements including a federal fingerprint background check
- Current Licensed Nurses are Grandfathered
- Each state must pass enhanced licensure compact language.
Compact Legislation in the Context of Maine’s Nursing Workforce Challenge

- Maine’s Nursing Action Coalition Engaged Consultants from the Northeast Ohio Nursing Initiative to Create a Nursing Supply and Demand Forecast Model
Maine’s Population

- What a difference ten years will make.

Maine Population, By Age Groups, 2017 - 2027

Somewhat similar in 2017 and 2027

Very different story for older cohorts: Significantly more people aged 65+ in 2027 than in 2017.
IMPACT OF AGE ON INPATIENT DEMAND – Hospital Setting

Inpatient Days, By Age, Urban/Non-Urban Population

- Female, Non-Urban
- Male, Non-Urban
- Female, Urban
- Male, Urban
Projected shortage of 3,200 Maine RNs in 2025.

- This assumes all things remain the same: entry of new RNs into the market, use of nurses, population size, nurses work patterns (retention rates, retirement rates, etc.) and demand for healthcare by age groups.
DATABOOK

The State of the State’s Nursing Education Programs Survey Results

PREPARED BY SUSAN B. SEPPLES PHD
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF NURSING

COLLEGE OF NURSING AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE
# AS Programs: Applicants / Admissions / Wait List 2015

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Faculty Teaching in Maine’s Nursing Programs – Faculty Age

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<td>22%</td>
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Nursing Workforce Challenge & Enhanced Compact Legislation

- Employers TODAY are experiencing challenges filling vacant nursing positions
- Hospitals, Nursing Facilities and Home Care providers statewide have hundreds of vacant nursing positions
- Compact legislation provides an efficient and safe structure for nurses to travel into Maine to provide short term patient care assignments.
Federal Update
Maine’s Congressional Delegation

- **Senator Angus King** - Elected in 2012, Current Term End 2018. Committees: Rules, Intelligence, Armed Services, Budget, Energy & Natural Resources
- **Congressman Bruce Poliquin** - Elected 2014, 2016 Re-Elected 2 year term. Committees: Finance, Member of Many Caucuses including Rural Health Care and Task Force to Combat Heroin Epidemic (founding member)
115th Congress

- Donald Trump - 45th President of the United States
- House - Republican Majority 241 Seats, Democrats 194 Seats
- Senate - Republican Majority 52 Seats, Democrats 46 Seats, Independents 2 seats
ACA Repeal/Replace/Repair

• Reconciliation Bill (Repeal) – Limited to Savings or Spend, Must Net to Savings. Requires only 51 Votes
• Regular Order – Replacement Bills thru Committee Process
• Executive Order – DHHS Secretary Price Implements Administrative Changes
House Republican Replacement Proposal

- Repeal individual and employer mandates, penalties for individual failure to maintain coverage
- Refundable tax credits age based and phase out at higher incomes
- Incentivizes Health Savings Accounts
- Increases the age rating band to 1:5
- Allows Medicaid expansion states to continue thru 12/31/19, non expansions states receive funding for safety net providers
- Patient and State Stability Fund to assist with premium and cost sharing stabilization
- Protect Patients with Pre-Existing Conditions
- Dependents Up to Age 26 Can Stay on Parents Plan
- Medicare Cuts Impacting Hospitals Continue
Figure 1: How House Republicans’ health reform plan might shift average health insurance tax credits, based on income and age, in 2020

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation analysis. Note: Data for Affordable Care Act represent the average tax credit available across all counties in the United States, at a given age.
Medicaid at Risk

- House Republican proposal includes transitioning Medicaid from a federal match program to a per beneficiary cap structure as of 10/1/18. The allotments are based on state FY 2016 expenditures for enrollee categories: elderly, blind/disabled, expansion adults, children, non-elderly non-disabled adults.
• Some Senate Republicans Support Repeal & Replace in one package or passed near time so Americans Understand the Changes
• Sen. Collins – Patient Freedom Act of 2017
• Sen. Rand - Obamacare Replacement Act
115th Congress First 6 Months

- Senate Hearings on President Trump Nominees
- Budget Resolution passed in early January to initiate “Budget Reconciliation” process to repeal the Affordable Care Act.
- Budget Continuing Resolution passed in Dec 2016 to fund the Government expires in April
- Debt Ceiling in March/April with accounting extensions for a few months
Thank you