OMNE - Nursing Leaders of Maine
Nursing Summit Legislative Update

LISA Harvey-McPherson rn, mba, mppm
Legislative chairperson
Maine’s Nursing Legislators

Representative Anne Perry
Democratic House Member from Calais
Serving her 6th Term in the House
Member of the Health & Human Services Committee
Retired Nurse Practitioner
Maine’s Nursing Legislators

- Representative Michelle Meyer
- Democratic House Member from Eliot
- First Term
- Serves on the Health & Human Services Committee
- RN
In addition to the nurse legislators, we also have 5 physician legislators

Over 2000 Bill Titles Submitted

Governor Mills Priorities include addressing Maine’s Opioid Crisis, Expanding MaineCare Insurance Coverage, Accessing Federal Funding Opportunities for Maine

DHHS Commissioner Lambrew- Committed to rebuilding Maine CDC and Maine’s public health nursing program

With a democratic majority in the House and Senate, every committee has a democratic House and Senate chair.
Background on Maine’s Nursing Workforce Shortage

- Maine is on a trajectory to have a shortage of 2700 RN’s by 2025
- Nursing education programs in Maine increased the number of graduates from 650 in 2015 to 800 in 2018
- Maine needs to graduate 1050 new license eligible RN’s every year to offset the projected shortage
- Faculty are among the oldest nurses in Maine, 24% of faculty are over the age of 60
- Today 9 nursing programs report 13 faculty vacancies, 39 faculty are expected to leave in the next 5 years
Applications and enrolment in nursing education programs continues to increase.

Programs turn away hundreds of qualified applicants due to faculty capacity challenges.
In 2005 the Legislature created the Nurse Education Loan Repayment Program, the program was never funded.

- The program resides with the Finance Authority of Maine.
- FAME will promulgate rules to implement the program once funding is received.
- The program repays loans for masters prepared ($4500) nurses and doctoral prepared nurses ($6000) that agree to teach for a minimum of 3 years in Maine.
An Act to Increase Faulty in Nursing Education Programs

129th MAINE LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document No. 799
H.P. 587
House of Representatives, February 12, 2019

An Act To Increase Faculty in Nursing Education Programs

Reference to the Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business suggested and ordered printed.

Presented by Representative JORGENSEN of Portland.
Cosponsored by Representative MEYER of Eliot, Senator GRATWICK of Penobscot and Representatives FAY of Raymond, HYMANSON of York, PERRY of Calais, STEWART of Presque Isle, Senators BELLOWS of Kennebec, CARSON of Cumberland, MOORE of Washington, SANBORN of Cumberland.
Changes included in the bill

- Increased loan repayment amounts
  - $30,000 for a Masters Degree in Nursing
  - $60,000 for a Doctoral Degree in Nursing
- Commitment to teach for 5 years full time in a Maine nursing education program
- $1 Million in Funding
Thank You!

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