



To: House Committee on Health & Human Services
From: Care New England
Date: March 12, 2024
Subject: **Support for HB 7826**

Dear Chairwoman Donovan and members of the Committee:

Care New England (CNE) is in support of HB 7826, and we would like to thank Chairman Casey for his effort in addressing challenges and opportunities in the nursing field.

CNE Health System is a trusted, integrated health care organization that fuels the latest advances in medical research, attracts the nation's top specialty-trained doctors, hones renowned services and innovative programs, and engages in the important discussions people need to have about their health. CNE is helping to transform the future of health care, providing a leading voice in the ongoing effort to ensure the health of the individuals and communities we serve.

In 2021 and 2022, there were Executive Orders (EO) issued to fundamentally do what HB 7826 is looking to make into state law. Speaking to the bill, the last COVID Executive Order extension (EO 22-22) took place on March 11, 2022. It expired on March 31, 2022. In it, the Governor extended, among other things, [EO 22-08](#) (Adjusting Work Requirements for Registered Nurse Graduates). By issuing that EO, the state exempted nursing students from needing to pass the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) and gave them the opportunity to work in the nursing field, allowing them to begin assisting in a nursing capacity before taking and receiving the results of the NCLEX.

Allowing nurses to work immediately after graduation from their nursing program would benefit both the student and the organization they have chosen as their employer. The student would immediately put their knowledge into practice, building on that knowledge while it is still fresh. The student will begin developing relationships with educators and experienced RNs at their new place of employment that will serve as a resource to them as they prepare to take their NCLEX. The institution will benefit by beginning the orientation process immediately after graduation, eliminating the delay of six to eight weeks to take the NCLEX.

CNE urges you to pass HB 7826. We are appreciative of the opportunity to provide testimony and if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me at RDulski@CareNE.org. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Dulski".

Robert Dulski
Director of Government Affairs
Care New England



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