



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

SENATOR CINDY F. FRIEDMAN
Fourth Middlesex District

STATE HOUSE, ROOM 313
BOSTON, MA 02133-1053
TEL: (617) 722-1432
FAX: (617) 722-1004

CINDY.FRIEDMAN@MASENATE.GOV
WWW.MASENATE.GOV

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Senator William J. Driscoll, Jr.
Chair, Joint Committee on Public Health
24 Beacon St. Room 507
Boston, MA 02133

Representative Marjorie C. Decker
Chair, Joint Committee on Public Health
24 Beacon St. Room 130
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chair Driscoll and Chair Decker,

I write in support of a bill I filed that is before your committee, S.1543, *An Act establishing a nursing workforce center*. This bill will look familiar to Chair Decker, as it is the Senate companion bill to the Chair's H.2397.

This bill would establish a nursing workforce center at the University of Massachusetts medical school in Worcester. The legislation would do so by codifying the existing Massachusetts Nursing Council on Workforce Sustainability.¹ Continuing the good work of the Council, the nursing workforce center would gather data, research and provide analysis to advise policy leaders on how to address the current and future nursing workforce needs of nurses and others who support nursing care, and provide recommendations to advance nursing science and practice in the Commonwealth.

Little needs to be said about the importance of our nursing workforce. Nurses are the backbone of our health care system, and their importance has only grown in recent years as we've expanded their responsibilities to help us address the high costs and long wait times that have made care increasingly unattainable for our residents.

¹ See Massachusetts Nursing Council on Workforce Sustainability, <https://www.ncwsma.org/>.

In other words, without nurses we do not have a functional health care system. We are asking more of our nurses than ever before and it is, therefore, vital that as a legislature we remain aware and responsive to the issues affecting our nursing workforce. We must make sure that nurses have safe workplaces, are fairly compensated for their work, and can care for their patients without interference from financial interests. And as these needs change in response to an ever-evolving health care landscape, it is crucial that we have a dedicated entity that can keep us and the public informed about issues affecting these essential workers.

I therefore respectfully request the committee report S.1543 favorably. Thank you for your consideration and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Cynthia F. Friedman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cindy F. Friedman