

Submitter: Genevieve Baldwin RN

On Behalf Of: Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure HB2744

Good afternoon,

Members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care and Chairman Nosse:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of HB 2744: Adds registered nurse who is nursing faculty member to types of providers who are eligible for income tax credit to rural medical providers.

Every good nurse, has had a better Nurse faculty member. Nurse instructors, challenge, support and encourage nursing students to become better nurses. Currently students are denied access to nursing programs due to lack of nurse instructors, especially in rural areas of the state. We need competent nurses now more than ever. Nursing faculty have a passion for nursing education but must compromise their quality of life to teach. Nurse faculty members are paid below the standard salary of those nurses providing healthcare in the community. We must improve salaries and benefits for Nurse faculty, to attract the additional nurse educators needed now and in the future.

I strongly support House Bill 2744 to provide income tax credit allowed to rural providers.