



RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES
OF CALIFORNIA

March 8, 2024

The Honorable Richard Roth
Senate Committee on Health
1021 O Street, Suite 3310
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Senate Bill 1042 (Roth) – SUPPORT
As Introduced February 7, 2024**

Dear Senator Roth:

On behalf of Rural County Representatives of California, we support your Senate Bill 1042 which would provide the information necessary to properly match nursing students with available clinical placement slots. RCRC is an association of forty rural California counties and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from each of those counties.

For decades California has suffered from a shortage of Registered Nurses (RNs). One contributing factor to this crisis is that California's nursing school capacity has not been able to keep up with demand, and a major bottleneck to growing capacity in our nursing programs is the challenge of locating and securing the clinical placement slots necessary to provide the clinical training required to obtain a nursing degree.

The California Board of Registered Nursing 2021-2022 Annual School Report surveyed nursing programs across the state and found that in 2021-2022, 60.5% of nursing programs (92) reported they were denied access to a clinical placement, unit, or shift, which is the highest number of programs reporting they were denied access than in any year prior to 2019-20. Similarly, 58.6% of programs reported that fewer students were being allowed for a clinical placement, unit, or shift in this year than in the prior year, which is also the highest percentage of programs to report this issue than in any year prior to 2019-20.

The 2020 State Auditor Report on the Board of Registered Nursing (BRN) found that due to a lack of reliable data, the BRN lacked critical information about the location and availability of clinical placement slots to make enrollment decisions. The State Auditor, in its 2020 report, specifically recommends that the BRN require nursing programs to annually update information about the clinical facilities they use for student

1215 K Street, Suite 1650, Sacramento, CA 95814 | www.rcrcnet.org | 916.447.4806 | Fax: 916.448.3154

ALPINE · AMADOR · BUTTE · CALAVERAS · COLUSA · DEL NORTE · EL DORADO · GLENN · HUMBOLDT · IMPERIAL · INYO · KINGS · LAKE · LASSEN
MADERA · MARIPOSA · MENDOCINO · MERCED · MODOC · MONO · MONTEREY · NAPA · NEVADA · PLACER · PLUMAS · SAN BENITO · SAN LUIS OBISPO
SANTA BARBARA · SHASTA · SIERRA · SISKIYOU · SOLANO · SONOMA · SUTTER · TEHAMA · TRINITY · TULARE · TUOLUMNE · YOLO · YUBA

The Honorable Richard Roth
Senate Bill 1042 - SUPPORT
March 8, 2024
Page 2

placements, and that compiling this information and comparing it with other available information about existing clinical facilities would allow the BRN to identify clinical facilities that programs do not currently use for placements, which could help nursing programs find additional facilities for their students.

SB 1042 does just that – by collecting data on nursing programs’ clinical placement needs and comparing it with the availability of clinical placement slots at health facilities, the BRN and Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) would have the necessary information to properly match scarce clinical placements with the nursing students that need them. The information will also assist the BRN and HCAI in working to identify additional clinical placement slots in a broader range of healthcare facilities.

For these reasons, RCRC is pleased to support your SB 1042. If you believe we can assist in its passage or you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 447-4806 or sdukett@rcrcnet.org.

Sincerely,



SARAH DUKETT
Policy Advocate

cc: The Honorable Steve Padilla, Member of the California State Senate
Members of the Senate Health Committee
Vincent Marchand, Consultant, Senate Health Committee
Joe Parra, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus