



H-5402

For

Written Testimony of:

Tony Capezza

Legislative Director

National Association of Government Employees (NAGE) Local 79

Good evening Madame Chairwoman and Honorable Members of the House Labor Committee. My name is Tony Capezza and I am the Lobbyist for the National Association of Government Employees (NAGE).

I submit this testimony this evening in support of H-5402 on behalf of the NAGE Registered Nurses at the Pastore Complex in Cranston. This proposed legislation would keep the terms and conditions of the collective bargaining agreement in effect during the contract negotiations and during the dispute resolution process.

This legislation is needed because historically, contract negotiations with the State have gone beyond the contract expiration date. For example, the current contracts have expired June 30, 2020. This is an extremely long period of time for our nurses' benefits to be exposed without any protection. Passage of this legislation would give our nurses piece of mind while they are providing extremely critical services for the State of Rhode Island.

For these reasons, I would ask for your support in approving this bill.

Thank you for your time.