



IDFPR

Illinois Department of
Financial and Professional Regulation

idfpr.illinois.gov

JB PRITZKER
Governor

MARIO TRETO, JR.
Secretary

FACT SHEET: VOTE “NO” HB 2509

Proposal would allow underperforming nursing programs to continue enrolling and graduating students without engagement or oversight by the Illinois Nursing Board.

*In doing so, it will **lower standards for nursing programs in Illinois at the expense of public health and safety, raising consumer protection concerns.***

Benefits an extremely small number of schools at the expense of the many, while also negatively impacting many of Illinois nursing students.

Why IDFPR is Opposed: Lowering Standards for Nursing Programs

[HB 2509](#) would **change Illinois’ current, commonly accepted standards and practices** held across states to assess nursing programs based on the yearly passage rate of National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) test-takers by establishing an unworkable three-year passage rate.

Illinois would be **the only state in the nation** to allow nursing schools a protracted 3-year passage rate. Low NCLEX passage rates are due to a variety of factors, including the quality of the nursing program.

Lowering standards to assess nursing programs based on a 3-year passage rate of all test-takers would diminish good standing of Illinois nursing institutions. It **will not** increase the nursing workforce, as nursing graduates unable to pass the NCLEX will be unable to obtain licensure in Illinois or any other state.

Illinois’ current benchmark of a 75% passage rate for first-time test takers from the preceding calendar year is already on the lower-end nationally. Most states (28) utilize an 80% passage rate of first-time test-takers.

Why IDFPR is Opposed: Limits IDFPR Oversight leading to Consumer Protection Concerns

[HB 2509](#) restricts IDFPR’s ability to place underperforming nursing programs on probation and engage with the school in remediation. In doing so, it is in **direct conflict with the Nurse Practice Act (225 ILCS 65)**, which establishes that the practice of nursing affects the public health, safety, and welfare and is subject to regulation in the public interest.

[HB 2509](#) impacts **all these elements at the expense of the public**, as well as creating a cohort of nurse graduates unable to pass the NCLEX, become licensed, and re-pay student loan debt.

Key Groups in Opposition

- Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation
- National Black Nurses Association – Chicago Chapter
- National Black Nurses Association – Illinois South Suburban Chapter

House Sponsor Engagement

IDFPR negotiated in good faith with House sponsor and drafter (Oak Point University) on many occasions after the bill was filed. IDFPR provided proposed acceptable language that was rejected. IDFPR was then excluded from subsequent negotiations. IDFPR continues to seek agreed resolution.