## **NEWS RELEASE**

Released by:	Lindsey B. Courtney, Executive Director
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Concord, N.H. –Today, Executive Director Courtney, on behalf of the New Hampshire Board of Nursing, issues the statement regarding the ongoing, multistate coordinated law enforcement action known as "Operation Nightingale."

The United States Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General and law enforcement partners recently launched an investigation into individuals engaged in a scheme to sell false and graduating nursing degree diplomas and transcripts from accredited, Florida-based nursing schools. These diplomas and transcripts were allegedly sold to Registered Nurse (RN) and Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) candidates.

The individuals who acquired the fraudulent nursing credentials used them to qualify to sit for the national nursing board exam. Upon successful completion of the board examination, the nursing applicants became eligible to obtain licensure in various states to work as an RN or LPN.

The Office of Professional Licensure and Certification, on behalf of the New Hampshire Board of Nursing, is actively cooperating with nursing regulatory bodies, nursing education program providers, accreditation bodies, and law enforcement authorities to detect, investigate, and resolve these matters as quickly as possible, including seeking revocation of any licensure obtained in New Hampshire through fraudulent means. Anyone who has information involving Operation Nightingale is asked to contact Investigator Briana Miller at <u>briana.1.miller@oplc.nh.gov</u> or (603) 271-2701.

The Board will provide more information as it becomes publicly available.