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Standing Joint Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services Committee
Maine State Legislature
1 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

RE: LD 295, *An Act to Repeal Restrictions That Prohibit Certain Advance Practice Nurses from Providing Essential Health Care Services*

Dear Senator Sanborn, Representative Tepler, and distinguished members of the Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services Committee:

My name is David McDermott. I am a family physician who has practiced in Dover-Foxcroft since 1993. I have worked continuously with non-physician practitioners through all my years in Maine and for over seven years before then. I have worked with physician assistants and advance practice nurses. My advocacy for physician assistants led the DownEast Association of Physician Assistant (now the Maine Association of Physician Assistants) to award me their “Physician of the Year” award in 2008. I am a proponent for an appropriately broad scope of practice for non-physician practitioners. I am concerned about this legislation as written as it completely removes any expectation for collaborative practice, mentoring, or supervision for new graduate advance practice nurses.

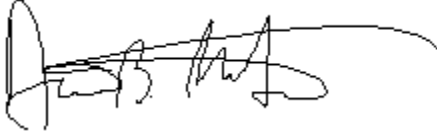
All new graduates of professional programs need some degree of mentoring before developing fully independent facility in practice. For physicians to obtain licensure they must first graduate from four years of medical school and at least three years of post-graduate training. Physician Assistants must complete rigorous training but cannot have an independent scope of practice until they have at least 4,000 hours of practice in a collaborative model (c.f. Chapter 2 of the BOLIM regulations).

Over the past few years there has been an increase in online advanced practice nursing education programs. Many of the online programs accept all applicants that meet basic requirements. In my opinion this is a lower standard than programs with a higher level of in-person attendance. The diversity of the advance practice programs only emphasizes the need for additional mentoring and guidance provided by experienced practitioners.

I support removing barriers to practice for advance practice nurses. This is not the right pathway to do this. If this bill asked to change the regulations for advance practice nurses to mirror that which has been developed over the past year for physician assistants, with language about collaborative practice that was developed through a reasoned process reflecting public input, I would support that. It is not safe to completely remove any expectation that a nurse practitioner

will be ready to practice independently on day one. Please consider modifying this legislative proposal to include this minimal expectation for collaborative practice for the early phases of new graduates' careers.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David B. McDermott', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David B. McDermott, MD, MPH