

Renee Fay-LeBlanc
Portland

Good evening,

My name is Renee Fay-LeBlanc and I am a practicing physician and serve as the CMO at Greater Portland Health. I reside in Portland.

I am writing to respectfully ask you to oppose LD 295, the bill to remove post-graduate training and supervisory requirements for nurse practitioners. In my role as CMO, I oversee several nurse practitioners.

Current law requires nurse practitioners to be licensed under supervision of a physician or an experienced nurse practitioner for 24 months after school.

“A certified nurse practitioner who qualifies as an advanced practice registered nurse must practice, for at least 24 months, under the supervision of a licensed physician or a supervising nurse practitioner or must be employed by a clinic or hospital that has a medical director who is a licensed physician. The certified nurse practitioner shall submit written evidence to the board upon completion of the required clinical experience.”

LD 295 gets rid of this section and would make a newly graduated nurse practitioner the same under state law as a physician who has graduated from medical school and completed 3 years of completely supervised training after medical school. Nearly every primary care physician in Maine does not have full decision making authority, or independent practice authority, for patients until 7 years after their first day of medical school under Maine state law.

The nurse practitioners I work with actually appreciate the oversight from physicians. Graduating from school and going into practice without any oversight is potentially dangerous for patients and also puts new nurse practitioners (and their licensure) at risk. Please continue to keep patients safe by requiring post graduate supervision for all practitioners.

Please feel free to call me if you have any questions or would like to talk further. My cell # is 207 272 8628.

Thanks,
Renee Fay-LeBlanc MD