

*25+ Years of **Independent Practice** as Healthcare Providers for the People of Maine*

Committee on Health & Human Services

LD 904/HP0560 An Act Supporting the Rural Health Care Workforce in Maine

April 6, 2023

Dear Senator Baldacci & Representative Meyer & members of the Committee on Health & Human Services,

I am a Family Nurse Practitioner from Stetson who works in Bangor. I am a co-chair of the Maine Nurse Practitioners Association (MNPA) legislative committee writing to you today on behalf of MNPA, to urge you to support LD 904, An Act Supporting the Rural Health Care Workforce in Maine with the inclusion of Nurse Practitioners.

As you probably already know and may have experienced, there is a shortage of health care providers in our state (Maine CDC/Maine Policy Institute). This bill would allow funding to assist in the education/clinical training/retention of providers including nurses and medical students. There are limited placements/preceptors and education is costly.

Maine has the oldest median age population in the United States and require more health care so this bill would aid to educate/retain healthcare providers. There are limited providers, especially in the rural areas of our state. More providers/nurses would increase access to care that our citizens deserve and can decrease delay in care which can improve outcomes and decrease costly complications from delay in care.

Nurse Practitioners provide quality care and this bill could aid for more educational opportunities and workforce development/retention in rural Maine for Nurse Practitioners to provide primary care if included. We support this bill to increase access to care and well-trained providers/nurses that we desperately need. Hospitals & other facilities/agencies are still using travelers (per diem) for staffing which is costly and they are only here for a limited time and then move on to their next assignment. Providing educational opportunities here in Maine can increase retention which increases 'buy in' and invested health care providers.

We urge you to support this bill and please feel free to contact me if any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

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