

Rhianna Jones
MEAPA
LD 2043

Senator Bailey, Representative Perry and members of the Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services Committee, my name is Kimberly Caldwell. I am writing to you today as a Director at Large of the Maine Association of Physician Assistants (MEAPA). I am also a resident of Cape Elizabeth and a practicing PA in Scarborough. I urge you to vote "ought to pass" on LD 2043. This bill will add Maine PAs to the interstate licensure compact that has been vetted by the council of state governments (CGS), the federation of state medical boards(FSMB), our national organization the American Academy of Physician Associates(AAPA), and our national certification board, National Commission on the Certification of Physician Assistants(NCCPA).

As a PA working in the Cardiology Subspecialty of Electrophysiology my patients travel frequently from out of state in order to come see us for a specialty services such as peacemaker management. Practitioners who manage these devices are in short supply and unfortunately patients who live in New Hampshire need to drive over an hour to come see us as we do not have licenses to treat out of state. Dropping this barrier would certainly widen the access to care. When asked why I became a PA I always answer "it's all about the patient." In this case it's also about the citizens of Maine and beyond. Thank you for your consideration and time.