



LD 2126 An Act Relating to Delegation of Nursing Activities and Tasks

Testimony in Support
February 8, 2024

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Senator Baily, Representative Perry, and members of the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services, my name is Laurie Belden. I am a resident of Durham and serve as the Executive Director of the Home Care & Hospice Alliance of Maine. I am pleased to provide written testimony on behalf of the Alliance in support of this bill.

This legislation revises nursing laws to permit nurses to delegate tasks to unlicensed assistive personnel. It offers a clear definition of "unlicensed assistive personnel" and mandates the State Board of Nursing to establish standard technical rules on delegation. These rules are intended to guarantee patient access to high-quality care across various healthcare settings.

This proposed change represents an enhancement to the current practice of coordinating and overseeing tasks, as it grants nurses the ability to assign responsibilities more efficiently to unlicensed assistive personnel. Moreover, this approach aligns with the National Council of State Boards of Nursing's guidelines on the delegation process.

Ensuring patient safety in home care is paramount, and this bill aims to strengthen that aspect by defining the authority of delegation from nurses to unlicensed personnel (UAP). Presently, nurses have oversight but lack the authority to delegate tasks to unlicensed assistive personnel. When a nurse delegates a task the decision is based on a nursing assessment of the patient and the nurse retains responsibility for the nursing care including tasks delegated to a UAP. This legislation empowers nurses to ensure the competence of UAP in carrying out delegated tasks, thereby enhancing patient safety.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of this bill.

Laurie Belden
Executive Director

**30 Association Drive
Manchester, ME 04351
www.HomeCareAlliance.org
207/213-6125**