



Testimony of Kathleen D. Moneghan, President, Maine Academy of Physician Associates

In Opposition of LD 90 “Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 6: Delegation of Nursing Activities and Tasks to Unlicensed Assistive Personnel by Registered Professional Nurses, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, State Board of Nursing”

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee, my name is Kathleen Moneghan. I am the President of the Maine Academy of Physician Associates, a Dover-Foxcroft resident, and I practice medicine in Occupational Health and Urgent Care. The Maine Academy of PAs (MEAPA) is a non-profit organization that represents over 1,000 PAs practicing in Maine and the patients we care for. Today, MEAPA stands in solidarity with our nursing colleagues at The Maine State Nurses Association (MSNA) to testify before you in opposition to LD 90, “Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 6: Delegation of Nursing Activities and Tasks to Unlicensed Assistive Personnel by Registered Professional Nurses, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, State Board of Nursing.”

Licensed nurses are highly trained professionals who are essential to the infrastructure of any successful healthcare system. Shifting these responsibilities by delegating tasks to unlicensed assistive personnel (UAP) without clearly outlining their scope of practice or the nursing tasks that can be delegated poses potential risks to the nurse, the UAP, and most importantly, the patient. The lack of structure in defining clear nursing tasks for delegation also places the responsibility for the competencies of the UAP on the delegating nurse, rather than the employer or state licensing board. In busy, high-risk situations or when the UAP is new to the delegating nurse, there is also an increased potential for error and patient harm.

Without addressing the specific concerns of failing to specify which nursing tasks may be delegated to a UAP and MSNA’s concerns about placing UAP competency responsibilities on the shoulders of the delegating nurse instead of holding employers accountable, as is the case for certified nursing assistants (CNAs), MEAPA cannot support this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Kathleen Moneghan, DHA, MPAS, PA-C
President, Maine Academy of Physician Associates