



Testimony in OPPOSITION to LD 828, An Act to Allow Chiropractors to Be Designated as School Health Advisors.

Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

March 31st, 2025

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy and members of the Committee of Education and Cultural Affairs, my name is Kimberly M Caldwell, I'm an Auburn resident, a PA practicing in Urgent Care throughout Maine and the Immediate-Past-President for the Maine Academy of Physician Associates (MEAPA). I am writing today on behalf of MEAPA to oppose LD 828.

MEAPA is a professional organization representing the more than 1100 PAs in Maine, we are a constituent organization of the American Academy of Physician Associates. PAs rigorously trained, receiving master's degrees following intense didactic courses and 2,000+ hrs of clinical experience throughout a 27-month or 3-year graduate degree program. Pediatric care in addition to multiple other generalist and specialty rotations are completed before graduation from an accredited program and passing our national certification examination. In Maine, PAs then practice collaboratively with a physician for a minimum of 4,000 hrs, are required to maintain their knowledge with 100 hrs of continuing medical education every 2 years and pass re-certification examinations every 10 years.

A "school health advisor" function (per current statute Title 20-A, Section 64020-A) is to advise the school administration on health issues, policy and practices and to perform other functions such as serving as a medical consultant to the school



nurse and examining, diagnosis students to protect against the outbreak of contagious diseases in the school.

We are opposing this bill on the basis that, while Chiropractors are trained in spinal health and physiologic manipulations, they do not receive adequate training in pediatric medicine, specifically infectious diseases, developmental stages, nutritional requirements, mental health and pharmacology.

It bears mentioning, that PAs whose scope of practice clearly includes the pediatric care elements described above are not currently included in the statutory requirements for “school health advisors”. But are far more qualified than our Chiropractic colleagues. MEAPA, will certainly take this into consideration when crafting our future government affairs agenda.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter,

Kimberly Caldwell, MPAS, PA-C
Immediate Past President,
Maine Academy of Physician Associates