

Robert Reed  
Lewiston  
LD 1166

To: Maine Legislature Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

Date: April 3, 2025

Re: LD 1166 An Act to Change the Professional Title and Identification of Physician Assistants to Physician Associates

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson and distinguished members of the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services. My name is Robert Reed, and I offer my testimony in support of LD 1166 as an individual and as a patient of a Physician Assistant. I apologize for not speaking sooner, but only became aware of this while sitting in the public hearing waiting to testify on other matters.

I am fortunate to have an amazing Physician Assistant, Taylor Butterfield as my Primary Care Physician. Yes, I said physician and while that might seem incorrect to a few testifying in opposition, that is how I see Taylor. I am fortunate to have Taylor on my side providing wisdom and supporting my healthcare needs. In my mind she is no different than a previous primary care physician who was an MD. Through the eyes of the patient and acting in the role provided they are not different.

In my employment, I am often dealing with Chiropractic Assistants in private practices and Medical Assistants in Federally Qualified Health Centers where we also staff chiropractors. While my understanding of a Physician Assistant is from 40 years in the industry I can understand where so many laypeople might not understand the level of training is far different and use of the word "assistant" has certain boundaries in the eyes of some which might inhibit a "PA" from fully engaging with a patient.

At a time when Maine struggles to recruit health care providers to our state, we should allow such changes and recognize the role of the physician assistant is greater than some may consider due to naming and the new name more accurately reflects the work they do. Please support LD 1166 as requested.

Robert Reed,  
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