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April 7, 2025

Senator Donna Bailey
Representative Lori Gramlich
Members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee
Room 220
Cross State Office Building, Augusta, Maine 04330

Dear Chairman Bailey, Chairman Gramlich and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express my strong support for **LD 961, "An Act to Address Maine's Health Care Workforce Shortage and Improve Access to Care."** I will not be able to attend the hearing due to clinical practice obligations. As a practicing Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) and the Rural FNP Program Coordinator at the University of Maine, I have firsthand experience with the challenges facing our healthcare system and the critical role NPs play in addressing them. I am speaking on my own behalf and not that of my employers (Northern Light Health; University of Maine).

The current licensing requirements for NPs in Maine, particularly the mandated transition-to-practice periods, create unnecessary barriers that hinder our ability to provide timely and effective care. There is no evidence to support that these additional requirements improve patient safety or clinician preparedness. In fact, over 50 years of research consistently demonstrate the safety and quality of NP competency-based education. NP curricula and accreditation requirements continue to evolve to meet the demands of healthcare advancements.

My professional mission is to *continue* producing graduates that are practice-ready upon graduation and have the competency of working among Maine's interprofessional healthcare teams. I have concerns that supervisory requirements are discriminatory, as no other Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) in the state face similar requirements. This disparity not only bottlenecks our workforce development but also discourages qualified NPs moving to and practicing in Maine, exacerbating the existing healthcare shortage, especially in rural and underserved areas.

LD 961 is not about expanding NP scope of practice; it is about ensuring that qualified NPs can practice to the full extent of their education and training, thereby improving access to care for all Mainers.

I urge you to support LD961 without reservation.

Sincerely,



Dr. Sean Sibley, PhD, MSN, APRN, FNP-C