

Testimony in Support:

LD 1166 “An Act to Change the Professional Title and Identification of Physician Assistants to Physician Associates”

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee, my name is Szymon Wiernek, MD, PhD. I am a Falmouth resident, and I practice

medicine in Portland. I am submitting testimony in support of LD 1166 “An Act to Change the Professional Title and Identification of Physician Assistants to Physician Associates”.

As a Physician who works closely with Physician Assistants, I am in support of The Maine Academy of Physician Associate’s effort to change the title of Physician Assistant to Physician Associate. This will keep their profession current with national standards as the American Academy of Physician Associates changed their title in 2021 after extensive research over the course of three years that determined there was a misconception among patients that PAs “assist” physicians. Changing of their profession’s title does not change what PAs do or impact their scope of practice but highlights to patients the value of the care they will receive from them. Both physicians and PAs remain deeply dedicated to revolutionizing healthcare in our nation through collaborative, patient-focused medical care.

We remain united with our healthcare colleagues in a shared mission to provide safe and effective care to all patients through a patient-centered and team-based approach which is why I urge you to vote “ought to pass” on LD 1166.

Thank you,
Szymon Wiernek