

Maine Association of the American College of Nurse Midwives

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:

As the President and representative of Maine ACNM affiliate our group would like to offer a letter of support for **LD 961 - *An Act to Address Maine's Health Care Workforce Shortage and Improve Access to Care.***

Here are a few points we feel are relevant to this bill:

- Transition periods **are a political compromise, not a policy best practice**
- There is **no evidence** to support that additional time in practice requirements as a prerequisite for licensure and practice make patients safer or clinicians more prepared.
- The safety and quality of nurse practitioner (NP) competency-based education has consistently been demonstrated through **more than 50 years of research**
- This legislation is a **no cost** solution to improving access to health care in Maine
- There is **no evidence** that new NPs are more likely to have disciplinary or safety issues.
- Most states and territories **do not** have similar state-mandated practice requirements.
- **There is evidence to support** that longer timeframes to licensure **will be detrimental** to improving access, especially in rural and underserved areas: Clinicians of all health disciplines are more likely to work in rural and underserved areas if they start working in these areas earlier in their careers

As Nurse Midwives in the State of Maine, we see first-hand how APRNs fill the need for more providers especially in rural Maine where patients lack access to health care. It seems discriminatory that NPs are the only APRNs that are required to be supervised. It's also unneeded as we all have physicians and other health care providers who we collaborate or consult with as needed.

LD961 is intended to standardize the Nurse Practitioner licensing process, remove barriers to practice and significantly increase access to Nurse Practitioner provided care for Maine citizens. I urge you to unanimously support LD961, without reservation.

Sincerely yours,

Holly Christensen, CNM, MSN, BSN
President
ME Affiliate of ACNM