

MAINE ASSOCIATION OF NURSE ANESTHESIOLOGY

Letter of Support for LD 961 – An Act to Address Maine’s Health Care Workforce Shortage and Improve Access to Care

April 14, 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 on behalf of the Maine Association of Nurse Anesthesiology in support of LD 961 “An Act to Address Maine’s Health Care Workforce Shortage and Improve Access to Care. We support this legislation and agree that the 24-month supervisory rule for Nurse Practitioners should be permanently removed.

The safety and quality of nurse practitioner competency-based education has consistently been demonstrated through more than 50 years of research. There is no evidence to support that additional time in practice requirements as a prerequisite for licensure and practice makes patients safer or clinicians more prepared or that new nurse practitioners are more likely to have disciplinary or safety issues. In fact, transition periods are more likely a political compromise, not a policy best practice.

It has been more than a decade since the Institute of Medicine recommended removing the restrictions to practice for advanced practice providers. There has never been a more important time to heed these recommendations as the number of healthcare consumers increases with the aging population and the number of providers dwindles, with a startling number reaching retirement age in the next decade. Maine is in the midst of a critical workforce shortage and these unnecessary political restrictions serve only as barriers to access to health care. Removal of the 24-month supervision requirement is an important step in assuring that the citizens of Maine will have increased access to high-quality care and will eliminate the unnecessary workforce bottleneck caused by this burdensome regulation.

LD 961 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 LD 961 without reservation, making Maine a safer place to live and a more attractive place to work.

Sincerely yours,
Kathy Maxwell

