

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

April 15th, 2025

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

I am writing on behalf of the American Nurses Association of Maine (ANA-ME) to express our strong support for LD 961, An Act to Address Maine's Health Care Workforce Shortage and Improve Access to Care. This critical legislation seeks to eliminate the 24-month supervisory period currently imposed on Nurse Practitioners (NPs) in Maine, thereby enhancing access to healthcare for Mainers and addressing the pressing workforce shortage we face.

The need for LD 961 is underscored by the unified nursing organizational support from groups such as the Organization of Maine Nurse Leaders (OMNL), the Maine Nurse Practitioner Association (MNPA), and the Maine Board of Nursing. Currently, Maine's supervisory requirement places unnecessary limitations on NPs, hindering their ability to provide essential care, especially in rural and underserved areas where healthcare access is particularly dire.

The existing model fails to deliver meaningful mentorship and instead creates a regulatory bottleneck that limits NPs' ability to serve patients effectively. Research has consistently shown that NPs are fully competent to provide safe and effective care upon graduation, and the current restrictions only exacerbate the challenges faced by Mainers seeking timely medical attention. With over 8,812 clients waiting for mental health counseling—some facing wait times of up to 32 weeks—LD 961 presents a timely solution to alleviate this crisis by allowing NPs to practice independently and address the growing demand for care.

By aligning Maine's policies with national standards that advocate for full practice authority, we can ensure that NPs can contribute fully to the healthcare system. This legislation is not just about removing hurdles to practice; it is about empowering qualified healthcare professionals to make a tangible difference in the lives of ALL Mainers.

I urge you to support LD 961 without reservation, as it is an essential step toward standardizing the Nurse Practitioner licensing process, removing barriers to practice, and significantly increasing access to NP-provided care for all.

Sincerely,
Jill Vaughn PhD-c, MSN, RN
American Nurses Association of Maine
President-Elect