

Janet Zalanskas
Skowhegan
LD 961

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

I attended an accredited graduate program. I passed a national certification test. I met the State and National guidelines to be considered a safe, licensed APRN.

I have served Maine communities.

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.

There is no evidence that new NPs are more likely to have disciplinary or safety issues.

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.

There is data showing 8,812 clients were waiting for mental health counseling from organizational providers for an average wait time of 32 weeks

2,819 clients were waiting for psychiatric care for an average of 33 weeks

69% of clients wait for counseling from organizational providers for 10 months or longer, including 23% who wait for longer than 1.5 years

Removing the transition to practice would appeal to PMHNPs looking to move to Maine.

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,
Janet Zalanskas, PMHNP