

Patty Locuratolo Hymanson  
York  
LD 961

To the Chairs and Members of the HCIFS Committee

I am neurologist and former State Rep (2015-2022), on Approps, and former Chair of HHS, and I hope you will consider my remarks when you take up LD 961, the nurse practitioner bill.

I oppose this bill. When I first came to Maine 40 years ago, I had completed a medical internship at a very busy hospital in New York City. Before Emergency Medicine was a specialty, I could be an ER doc after four years of medical school and one year of intense internship. I thought I knew what I needed to know but I was not seasoned enough and really didn't know what I didn't know. I had help from the specialists available by phone or by consult, sure, but I was aware my questions were simple and they thought I should know these things.

Now that I am a specialist, having spent 3 more years in intensive neurology residency in Boston, through my 28 years of private practice in- and out of the hospital setting, I can see what other longer trained docs saw in me at the time.

The more training in the field, with supervision, before independent practice in general practice, the better. Make the 2 years of supervised training for an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse better instead of giving it up.

Reasonable would be 1. To take away the practice categories stated in rules and 2. To look at honoring skilled/experienced out-of-state NP's who want to practice in Maine by creating a better rules pathway for them.

Independent general practice requires training by supervision to increase experience.

Medical Specialists do not have the time, and it is not always best for the patient, to consult from a distance. I understand there is a critical need for rural physicians but this is not the way to do it.

Thank you for your consideration.

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