

LD 2088 “An Act to Increase Access to Primary Care Provided by Physician Associates”.

Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Service Committee

January 22, 2026

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and members of the Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services Committee, my name is Stuart Davidson, a resident of Mount Desert. I am an orthopedic surgeon and the Chief Medical Officer of Mount Desert Island Hospital. I am submitting testimony in support of LD 2088, “An Act to Increase Access to Primary Care Provided by Physician Associates.”

This bill represents a critical step forward in addressing Maine’s primary care access challenges. By modernizing the practice framework for Physician Associates, LD 2088 will enable these highly trained professionals to deliver care more efficiently and effectively to underserved communities across our state.

At Mount Desert Island Hospital, we have witnessed firsthand the vital role that Physician Associates play in our healthcare delivery system. They provide comprehensive, high-quality care to patients who might otherwise face significant barriers to accessing primary care services. However, current regulatory constraints unnecessarily limit their ability to practice to the full extent of their education and training.

This legislation will allow Physician Associates to practice with greater autonomy, on par with other advanced practice providers in Maine. This modernization is not only consistent with national trends in healthcare delivery but is also essential for meeting the growing demand for primary care services in rural and underserved areas. By removing outdated barriers, we can ensure that patients receive timely, accessible care from qualified professionals who are already integral members of our healthcare teams.

We remain united with our healthcare colleagues in a shared mission to provide safe and effective care to all patients through a patient-centered and team-based approach. This legislation supports that mission by recognizing the expertise and capabilities of Physician Associates while maintaining the collaborative framework that ensures quality care. For these reasons, I strongly urge you to vote “ought to pass” on LD 2088. This bill represents a meaningful step toward addressing Maine’s healthcare access crisis while empowering qualified professionals to serve their communities to the fullest extent of their training.

Stuart Davidson MD



Stuart.Davidson@mdihospital.org Phone: 207-288-0242