

Testimony in Support:
LD 2088 “An Act to Increase Access to Primary Care Provided by Physician Associates.”
Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee
January 20, 2026

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee, my name is Gretchen Preneta. I am a Portland resident and a physician associate. I practice medicine at New England Cancer Specialists in Westbrook and at Maine Medical Center in Portland. I am also the Past President of the Maine Academy of Physician Assistants (now Associates) and an advocate for PAs and the patients they serve. I am submitting testimony in support of LD 2088 “An Act to Increase Access to Primary Care Provided by Physician Associates.”

I am in full support of the elimination of the practice agreement requirement for PAs working in a non-physician owned practice, as proposed in LD 2088. This bill maintains the Maine’s current requirement for physician collaboration for PAs practicing with less than 4,000 hours of clinical practice while also allowing PAs to practice to their fullest potential regardless of clinical setting. Additionally, particularly in our state, LD 2088 helps establish greater parity with nurse practitioners who under Maine law established in 1995, can practice independent of a physician regardless of the practice setting, after a two-year supervision period.

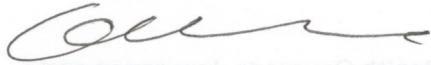
You may recall the passing of our bill in 2020, LD 1660, An Act to Improve Access to Physician Assistant Care. This was the first step towards PA practice parity with nurse practitioners and increased the ability of PAs to meet the needs of our population, but it was not enough. My cancer patients, particularly those in rural areas, continue to struggle to find PCPs, a role that can be filled by a PA, an NP, or a physician. PCP job openings that could be filled by a PA continue to be advertised to NPs and physicians, instead.

PAs remain deeply dedicated to revolutionizing healthcare in our nation through collaborative, patient-focused medical care. The collaborative nature of our healthcare system does not change with this new law. Instead, LD 2088 furthers opportunities for PAs to increase access to care for their patients while also allowing them to practice similarly to other providers in the state.

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 while continuing to be

thoughtful in how we approach solutions to access to care which is why I urge you to vote "ought to pass" on LD 2088.

Thank you,



Gretchen Preneta PA-C
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