

Testimony of the American Nurses Association–Maine

In Support of LD 2088: “An Act to Increase Access to Primary Care Provided by Physician Associates”

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and Members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee:

My name is Jill Vaughn, MSN, APRN, ACNP-BC, and I serve as President of the American Nurses Association–Maine, representing registered nurses, advanced practice registered nurses, and nurse leaders across our state. On behalf of ANA-Maine, I write in strong support of LD 2088, “An Act to Increase Access to Primary Care Provided by Physician Associates.”

Maine continues to face serious challenges in access to primary care, particularly in rural and underserved communities. Workforce shortages, increasing demand, and prolonged wait times delay care and strain healthcare practices across the state. Regulatory barriers that limit clinicians from practicing to the full extent of their education and training further restrict access and worsen these challenges.

Mandatory physician oversight requirements for Physician Associates impose significant financial and administrative burdens on healthcare practices without evidence of improved patient outcomes. These requirements divert resources away from patient care, restrict practice growth, and limit the ability to recruit and retain clinicians. At a time when Maine urgently needs to expand its healthcare workforce, such mandates function as barriers rather than safeguards.

Physician Associates are highly trained clinicians and essential members of the healthcare workforce. Allowing PAs to practice independently will reduce regulatory barriers, support collaborative care models, and enable practices to expand services in response to community needs. Independent practice does not eliminate collaboration; it removes outdated regulatory structures that no longer reflect modern healthcare delivery.

ANA-Maine urges the Legislature to support LD 2088 and continue Maine’s leadership in evidence-based, patient-centered healthcare policy. This bill represents an important step toward improving access to primary care, strengthening the healthcare workforce, and ensuring timely, high-quality care for all Maine people.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to improving healthcare access in Maine.

Respectfully,

Jill Vaughn, MSN, APRN, ACNP-BC

President, American Nurses Association–Maine

Jill Vaughn
South Portland
LD 2088

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