

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee, my name is Brooke Murch. I am writing to respectfully urge your support for LD 2088 “An Act to Increase Access to Primary Care Provided by Physician Associates”, legislation that would modernize Physician Associate (PA) practice in Maine and help expand access to high-quality healthcare for communities across our state.

I am a Physician Associate who completed a rigorous, two-year graduate medical education program at Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (MCPHS University). My training included extensive didactic coursework and supervised clinical rotations across nine medical specialties, providing a broad and in-depth foundation in patient care, diagnosis, and medical decision-making. This education mirrors the medical model and prepares PAs to practice safely and effectively across a wide range of clinical settings.

I currently work in urgent care and wound care, serving a community with limited access to healthcare. In my role, I frequently manage my own panel of patients and am often the sole provider responsible for their care. This includes independently evaluating patients, developing treatment plans, performing procedures, and making complex medical decisions. On a typical day, I care for upwards of 35 patients, many of whom would otherwise face long delays or travel significant distances to receive care. Physician Associates play a critical role in increasing access to healthcare, particularly in rural and underserved areas. PAs are highly trained, adaptable clinicians who extend the reach of the healthcare system by providing timely, efficient, and high-quality care. In many settings, including my own, patients rely on PAs as their primary point of access to medical services. LD 2088 would help remove unnecessary administrative barriers that limit how effectively PAs can practice, while maintaining patient safety and quality of care. By supporting this legislation, Maine can better utilize its existing healthcare workforce, improve access for patients, reduce delays in care, and help address ongoing provider shortages – especially in communities that need it most. I am proud of the care I provide and the trust my patients place in me. Supporting LD 2088 would allow PAs like myself to continue meeting the growing healthcare needs of Maine’s residents more efficiently and effectively.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and commitment to improving healthcare access in Maine. I respectfully ask for your support of LD 2088.

Brooke Murch, PA-C