

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 Daniel Moyer. I am a homeowner in Kennebunkport, and I practiced medicine in Maine for five years. Today, I am testifying in support of LD 2088 “An Act to Increase Access to Primary Care Provided by Physician Associates.”

I have been a Physician Associate (PA) for 12 years, beginning my career as a PA in the U.S. Navy, and subsequently working as a PA for the Department of Homeland Security, and in the civilian sector in the fields of Orthopedic Surgery, Dermatology and Urgent Care.

In 2023 I started my own medical practice, Trinity Medical Group LLC. In this business, I contracted with the State of Maine, Disability Determination Services, to perform Social Security Disability Physical Evaluations. My relationship with the Maine DDS office and staff was excellent.

My responsibilities performing these evaluations included reviewing medical records, obtaining a detailed medical history from the Claimant, performing a comprehensive physical examination, and writing a detailed report on my findings and providing suggested physical limitations.

I was able to perform these evaluations independently, without any assistance or consultation with a physician. Unfortunately, because of Maine state law, I was required to maintain a Practice Agreement with a Maine licensed physician. Physicians do not provide this service for free- I paid close to \$10,000 per year to have a physician maintain a Practice Agreement with me so that I could perform these evaluations. I used a private company to find a physician for the Practice Agreement requirement. The physician I hired was excellent, and understood the burdensome requirement for a Practice Agreement and his role to help me fulfill the State requirement. The physician I hired was a Maine licensed physician, but located in Texas. I accepted the burden of having a Practice Agreement and associated financial obligation as just a cost of doing business in Maine.

Sadly, the high cost of having a Physician Practice Agreement was a significant and motivating factor for closing my business in 2025. Combining this expense, with the cost of insurance, paying a medical assistant, payroll provider costs, accountant and legal costs, vehicle expenses, supplies, and other business expenses; I realized that it was not financially feasible to keep the business open. This was unfortunate, not only for my family, but also my Medical Assistant’s family, and the Social Security disability claimants.

Despite all the other business costs, if I did not have the cost of a Physician Practice Agreement, I probably would have kept my business open, continuing to serve some of the most vulnerable Mainers, and providing a good paying job to a Maine Medical Assistant.

I hope that LD 2088 will pass, allowing experienced Physician Associates to practice **without** a Practice Agreement with a Physician and that you take my personal story into consideration when voting.

Respectfully,

Daniel T. Moyer PA-C