

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 12, 2026

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee, my name is Paul O'CONNOR. I am a Physician Assistant, and I have practiced medicine from 1985-2023. 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. 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul O'Connor PA". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P".

Paul O'Connor, PA

Beaver Cove, Maine

207 852 3451