

## **Maine Alliance for Care at Home**

### **Testimony in Support of LD 2166 - Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 6: Delegation of Nursing Activities and Tasks to Unlicensed Assistive Personnel by Registered Professional Nurses, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, State Board of Nursing**

**February 11, 2026**

Chair Bailey, Chair Mathieson, and members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee

My name is Sara Ratcliffe, and I serve as Executive Director of the Maine Alliance for Care at Home (formerly the Home Care & Hospice Alliance of Maine). The Alliance is submitting testimony in support of LD 2166.

The Maine Alliance for Care at Home is a network of home care, hospice, and personal care providers across our State delivering in-home care to older adults and disabled individuals of all ages, allowing them to stay in their homes and communities.

The Alliance is strongly supportive of LD 2166. Allowing RNs the option to delegate appropriate tasks to unlicensed assistive personnel (UAPs) is a critical step toward strengthening Maine's care delivery system, particularly in the home care and hospice settings, where workforce challenges and rising patient needs continue to intensify.

Importantly, this resolve does not mandate delegation. Rather, it provides RNs with a flexible, clinically sound tool they may use at their discretion. Delegation remains firmly grounded in the nurse's professional judgment. The RN retains full authority to determine whether a task is appropriate to delegate, to oversee the delegated activity, and to modify or revoke that delegation at any time based on the patient's condition, the competence of the UAP, or other relevant factors.

By creating this option, not an obligation, LD 2166 empowers nurses to practice at the top of their license. This supports more efficient care delivery, improves patient access, and helps ensure that nurses can focus their expertise where it is most needed.

Additionally, home health and hospice agencies increasingly rely on technology to support RN supervision of UAPs, enabling timely communication, real-time documentation, and efficient oversight of delegated tasks. These tools enhance care coordination while preserving the RN's clinical authority and accountability. The Alliance also supports a patient's right to hire their own personnel, including nursing students, and agrees with nurse delegation to these individuals when appropriate. This flexibility respects patient

choice while ensuring that all delegated care remains under the supervision and professional judgment of a registered nurse.

For home care in particular, the ability to safely delegate tasks to trained UAPs is essential. Maine continues to face a significant nursing shortage, especially in rural and underserved areas. Many patients who wish to remain at home struggle to receive timely services simply because a registered nurse is not available to complete every task personally. Delegation, when appropriate, can expand capacity, support continuity of care, and allow more Mainers to receive high-quality services in the setting they prefer, *their home*.

The Alliance strongly supports the adoption of this resolve as written. It offers an evidence-based, patient-centered approach that maintains safety, preserves RN oversight, and addresses real workforce pressures in our state's home health and hospice communities.

Thank you for your consideration and for your ongoing commitment to advancing safe, high-quality nursing care in Maine. We appreciate the opportunity to testify and stand ready to support the successful implementation of this important law.

Thank you,  
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