

Testimony in Support:

LD 2088 “An Act to Increase Access to Primary Care Provided by Physician Associates”.

Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Service Committee

02/09/2026

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee, my name is Patricia Kittredge. I am a Maine resident, and Owner/CEO of Gray Urgent Care. I am submitting testimony in support of LD 2088 “An Act to Increase Access to Primary Care provided by Physician Associates”.

For 23 years, I have enjoyed working alongside physician associates (PAs) across various specialties and appreciate their role in delivering medical care and improving patient access throughout rural Maine. As a medical practice owner, however, I have encountered difficulties hiring PAs due to the need for practice agreements for those with more than 4,000 hours of clinical experience. I support removing this requirement for PAs in non-physician owned practices. The bill preserves the necessity for physician collaboration for PAs with fewer than 4,000 hours of experience, while enabling all PAs to work to their full capacity no matter where they practice.

Furthermore, LD 2088’s proposed changes encourage parity between nurse practitioners (NPs) and PAs. Since 1995, Maine law has allowed NPs to practice independently after two years of supervision, regardless of the setting. Both NPs and PAs are committed to transforming healthcare through collaborative, patient-focused care. This legislation does not alter the teamwork at the heart of our health system, instead, it offers PAs more opportunities to serve patients and allows them to practice similarly to other providers in Maine.

We stand together with healthcare colleagues in our mission to deliver safe and effective care by keeping our approach centered on patients and teams. We continue to search for thoughtful solutions to improve access to care, which is why I urge you to vote “ought to pass” on LD 2088.

Thank you,

Patricia Kittredge, ARNP-C

Gray Urgent Care, LLC
Chief Executive Officer, Co-Owner

