

Testimony of the American Nurses Association of Maine

In Support of LD 2166 / HP 1455

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 6: Delegation of Nursing Activities and Tasks to Unlicensed Assistive Personnel by Registered Professional Nurses
132nd Maine Legislature

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services
February 11, 2026

Senator Donna Bailey, Senate Chair, Representative Kristi Michele Mathieson, House Chair, and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services:

My name is Jill Vaughn, MSN, APRN, ACNP-BC, and I serve as President of the American Nurses Association of Maine (ANA-Maine), representing thousands of registered nurses across our state. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of LD 2166 / HP 1455, which authorizes the final adoption of Chapter 6: Delegation of Nursing Activities and Tasks to Unlicensed Assistive Personnel by Registered Professional Nurses.

ANA-Maine supports this resolve because Chapter 6 establishes an essential framework for delegation that both protects patients and strengthens nursing practice in Maine. This rule provides timely clarity for nurses, employers, and healthcare systems as Maine continues to face increasing workforce pressures and growing care needs across acute, long-term, and community-based settings.

A central strength of Chapter 6 is that it reflects Maine law's explicit protection of professional nursing judgment. Delegation is permitted, but not mandatory, and no nurse may be coerced into delegating against their clinical judgment. This safeguard is critical to maintaining patient safety and preserving the integrity of registered nursing practice in all care environments.

ANA-Maine strongly affirms that registered nurses remain responsible for:

- Patient assessment
- Development of the nursing plan of care
- Clinical decision-making
- Evaluation of patient outcomes

Chapter 6 appropriately limits delegation to tasks that do not require unlicensed assistive personnel to independently assess, analyze, interpret, plan, or evaluate patient data. This ensures that delegation supports care delivery without replacing the essential role of the RN.

ANA-Maine supports the rule's strong requirements for safe delegation, including:

- Verification of UAP competency and documentation

- Clear RN direction and communication
- Ongoing supervision and RN availability
- Authority for the RN to rescind delegation at any time if patient condition changes.

These provisions align with nationally recognized “Five Rights of Delegation” and ensure that delegation occurs only when appropriate, safe, and patient-centered.

LD 2166 authorizes the final adoption of this provisionally adopted rule and includes an emergency clause to ensure it takes effect immediately upon approval.

ANA-Maine agrees that timely enactment is important to provide regulatory clarity and support safe nursing care delivery statewide.

For these reasons, the American Nurses Association of Maine respectfully urges the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services to support LD 2166 / HP 1455 and authorize the final adoption of Chapter 6.

Thank you for your time, your leadership, and your continued commitment to nursing regulation and public health.

Respectfully,

Jill Vaughn, MSN, APRN, ACNP-BC
President, American Nurses Association of Maine
jill.vaughn@anamaine.org | 636-288-7202