

To whom it may concern.

I am writing in support of LD 2088. I am a primary care physician who also graduated with a Masters in Public Health in 2015. I wrote a policy paper about New York State's decision to limit practice agreements at the time, for my masters thesis. The literature did and continues to support the independent practice of all advanced practice clinicians, Physicians Associates and Nurse Practitioners alike. PAs and NPs typically have similar health outcomes with better patient satisfaction scores when compared to physicians. I spent 9 years in training, 4 in medical school, 1 for my masters, and 4 more in a Family Medicine residency. A competent Physician Associate can be trained in a fraction of that time, including the required 4000 hours of required supervision after graduation. As Maine's population continues to age, our patient population grows, on average, older and sicker. We should be focused on expanding our workforce and enticing practitioners into primary care, not reinforcing antiquated and arbitrary barriers to practice. I have the privilege of working with a Nurse Practitioner and a Physician Associate everyday in my clinic. They are excellent providers who should be afforded every opportunity for independent practice, should they so choose. In my opinion, 5 or 10 years of experience is worth far more than the initials after my name, or anyone else's.

Thank you for your consideration.

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