

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Sara Gagné-Holmes
Commissioner



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February 18, 2026

Senator Bailey, Chair
Representative Mathieson, Chair
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

Re: LD 2200 — *An Act to Prohibit Noncompete Clauses for Health Care Professionals as Recommended by the Commission to Evaluate the Scope of Regulatory Review and Oversight over Health Care Transactions That Impact the Delivery of Health Care Services in the State*

Senator Bailey Representative Mathieson and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information in support of LD 2200, *An Act to Prohibit Noncompete Clauses for Health Care Professionals as Recommended by the Commission to Evaluate the Scope of Regulatory Review and Oversight over Health Care Transactions That Impact the Delivery of Health Care Services in the State*.

The intent of this bill is to prohibit health care facilities from engaging in a contract with practitioners that prohibits them from working within a certain radius of a facility should they leave. The concern with these agreements for health care practitioners is that they could result in a loss of providers in a community and thus less a loss of healthcare access for residents in rural settings.

The department supports this bill because it helps preserve patient choice by allowing individuals the further possibility to remain with their preferred healthcare provider if they choose. It also gives practitioners greater flexibility to work in the geographic areas they choose. In this context, noncompete agreements are often used by healthcare organizations to prevent patients from following their physician to a new practice and to restrict providers from working near the system they are leaving. As a result, patients are less likely to leave the healthcare system where they most recently received care.

Passage of this bill would improve access to providers by allowing them to continue practicing in their communities. It would also reduce the risk of losing healthcare providers due to restrictive noncompete agreements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Mills".

Bill Montejo
Director
Division of Licensing and Certification
Maine Department of Health and Human Services