

Lydia Caron - PA Compact Statement

Introduction:

Senator Bailey, Representative Perry and members of the Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services Committee, good afternoon. My name is Lydia Caron. I am speaking to you today as one of the UNE Student Representatives of the Maine Association of Physician Assistants (MEAPA). I am a current resident of Westbrook ME, though I was born and raised in Glenburn ME. I am here on behalf of Maine PA students and the University of New England. I am here today to represent the voice of UNE's PA Class of 2025 and to relay our support for the ruling of "Ought to Pass" of LD2043.

Here are their words:

Quotes gathered from UNE PA Class of 2025:

"The compact would allow PAs to move to a state that is underserved by providers with less barriers to entry. It would put PAs in the same compact community enjoyed by nursing and EMS licenses, among others. The PA profession should not be lagging behind others."

"This law enhances the versatility of the career that attracted so many people like myself. On a more personal level, my partner is from New York state, and it would allow us to potentially care for his parents or move back to Maine to care for mine. A PA compact would allow me to continue to care for my patients while also caring for my family."

"I think the PA compact would be beneficial to all of us because of its potential to positively affect our future patients. Many states need more PCPs, and that issue is not getting any closer to being solved if state lines limit our ability to care for people. For example, if a provider sees a college-aged individual who goes off to college in a nearby state, they are unable to refill the students' prescriptions or meet via telehealth due to current state regulations. This could lead to inconsistencies in care."

"The PA Compact would benefit me as my partner has a career that may dictate travel around New England and possibly the country. Being able to move with them and not have a multiple-month process to be able to continue practicing is not only convenient but practical."

"The PA Compact would make it easier for PA school students to stay in Maine following graduation without being forced to choose between our current state and our home state."

"As a student and Maine native, I don't see a single argument against the PA Compact. This would benefit the state by encouraging people to relocate to- or remain in- the state of Maine without licensing restrictions. This will benefit current providers by offering the gift of flexibility and career development. Furthermore, the compact will benefit myself and other students by teaching us that there should be no limitations on what we can do for others. I cannot speak for all of us, but I can only assume that we share at least one sentiment that has manifested as our educational investment: medicine is not about "me," or "you," or "them", it is about "all." It is about community. Who are we to limit the definition of community?"

Thank you for your time.