



Maine Health Care Association

**Testimony of Ben Hawkins, Director of Public Affairs  
Maine Health Care Association**

To the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

Thursday, February 8, 2024, at 1:00 PM

In support of  
**LD 2126, An Act Relating to Delegation of Nursing Activities and Tasks to Unlicensed Assistive Personnel by Registered Professional Nurses**

Good afternoon Senator Bailey, Representative Perry, and distinguished members of the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services. My name is Ben Hawkins, and I serve as the Director of Public Affairs for the Maine Health Care Association. We represent approximately 200 nursing homes, assisted living centers, and residential care facilities (also known as Private Non-Medical Institutions or PNMI) across the state. Our mission is to empower members to ensure the integrity, quality, and sustainability of long term care in Maine.

On behalf of our members, I am testifying in support of LD 2126, *An Act Relating to Delegation of Nursing Activities and Tasks to Unlicensed Assistive Personnel by Registered Professional Nurses*.

In summary, this bill would authorize a nurse to delegate activities and tasks to unlicensed assistive personnel. This would be an improvement on the current standard of *coordinating and overseeing* as it empowers nurses to assign tasks more effectively to colleagues. A major difference between coordinating and overseeing versus delegating is that delegating involves the delegatee bearing more of the responsibility for correctly completing the activity, skill, or procedure. At the same time, the nurse generally maintains overall accountability for the patient and for assessing the delegatee's capabilities at executing assigned tasks. We believe

that delegating is a more reasonable standard for how providing care should be in health care settings.

Crucially, this bill also directs the State Board of Nursing to adopt rules that would elaborate on the standards of delegating to ensure quality health care for patients. We believe that this board of experts will create clear guidance for both delegators and delegates. MHCA looks forward to continuing our collaboration on this important effort.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments today.