



Maine Nurse Practitioner Association
PO Box 135 | Woolwich, ME 04579
MNPA.org

15 April 2025

Senator Donna Bailey
Representative Lori Gramlich
Members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee
Room 220
Cross State Office Building, Augusta, Maine 04330

Dear Chairman Bailey, Chairman Gramlich and Members of the Committee:

I am writing today as a psychiatric nurse practitioner, independent medical examiner for the District Courts and member of the Legislative Committee of the Maine Nurse Practitioner Association in support of LD961, An Act to Address Maine's Health Care Workforce Shortage and Improve Access to Care.

I have written many letters of testimony, and testified in hearings, multiple times over my 28 years in practice; I believe this is the most important testimony that I have given over that period of time on behalf of my colleagues and on behalf of Maine citizens. LD961 rectifies a woefully outdated political compromise from 1994 of an initial 24 month supervisory period for initial licensure for Maine Nurse Practitioners; again, this was a compromise, not a best practice policy.

For many reasons, one can readily recognize the outdated nature of this current provision in law. It was waived during the Covid-19 pandemic (without adverse effect) and it is a significant impediment to retention of Nurse Practitioners who would like to practice in Maine or move to Maine, especially from other states that do not have this requirement.

Nurse Practitioners have fully completed their education and training when applying for licensure. There is no evidence that indicates this transition to practice period somehow enhances patient safety or Nurse Practitioner preparation. Patient outcomes are the gold standard determination of educational effectiveness - there have been numerous studies, over 50 years, demonstrating the consistency of high quality and safe care provided by Nurse Practitioners.



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The District of Columbia, two US territories and 27 other states have Full Practice Authority status; it is well beyond time that Maine joins them. LD961 will expand workforce development for Maine and attract NPs to our state, which has been restricted as a consequence of this archaic and deleterious transition to practice provision. Other states with this requirement are experiencing the same issues as Maine is and have either retired the requirement (UT, DE) or are considering retiring it. If Maine does not, our state will face even more competition for recruitment and retention.

LD961 is intended to standardize the Nurse Practitioner licensing process, remove barriers to practice and significantly increase access to Nurse Practitioner provided care for Maine citizens. I urge you to unanimously support LD961, without reservation.

Sincerely yours,

Constance Jordan MacVane, ANP, PMHNP

Immediate Past President, Maine Nurse Practitioner Association

Member, Legislative Committee, Maine Nurse Practitioner Association