

Good afternoon Committee,

My name is Jacqueline Carter, and I am a practicing family nurse practitioner and resident of Blue Hill, Maine. Today I am speaking in support of L.D. 961 on behalf of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners, in my elected role as the AANP Maine Representative.

I am a lifelong Mainer, having been born and raised in Millinocket. I have been in practice in Maine for seventeen years. During my career, I have seen Maine NPs step up to become the backbone of healthcare in our state, caring for some the most underserved communities.

Maine state law authorizes NPs to evaluate patients, diagnose, write prescriptions and provide whole-person care to patients across the state. They complete six years of undergraduate and graduate education that includes embedded hands-on supervised clinical rotations.

As members of this Committee, you know that our state faces unique challenges arising from our aging population, regional differences in access, provider shortages, and high rates of chronic disease.

To meet these challenges Maine needs to do better. And that is what L.D. 961 is designed to do.

The issue is that there is no evidence that these mandated contracts are necessary. And it's creating challenges to moving our state forward.

L.D. 961 offers a solution that helps and requires no additional state funding. It's a solution that 16 states, DC and 2 US territories have already enacted and one that Maine successfully saw in action during the pandemic.

This legislation will not change the scope of practice and NPs would still be required to complete nationally accredited NP graduate programs that include advanced didactic and clinical hands-on supervised rotations, and NPs must pass national board certification exams.

L.D. 961 is the right step for our state and I urge you to vote in support of L.D. 961.

Thank you, I would refer you back to the Maine Nurse Practitioner Association or the American Association of Nurse Practitioner's written comments for specific details.

Respectfully,

Jacqueline L. Carter, RN, MSN, FNP-C
AANP Maine State Representative
Blue Hill, Maine
207-447-0527 cell/text
jackie.l.carter10@gmail.com