

April 15, 2025

Senator Donna Bailey

Representative Lori Gramlich

Members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee

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

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of LD961, An Act to Address Maine's Health Care Workforce Shortage and Improve Access to Care. Currently I am a recently retired Nurse Practitioner (NP) with 30 years' experience as a Nurse Practitioner preceded by 30 years of practice as a Registered Nurse. I currently live in Portland.

As a contributing member of the committee that drafted our bill, I remember the pride and excitement when our bill passed the legislature and went to Governor King's desk for signature. I was in the first group of newly graduated and certified Nurse Practitioners to come under the Board of Nursing and the new two-year supervisory requirement on our path to Independent Nurse Practitioner. At the time the two-year supervision requirement did not seem to be the barrier it would become.

Fortunately for me my journey was not as difficult as for some of my colleagues. I was able to continue practicing as an RN from graduation in September until I took my certifying boards at the end of October and awaited the results. Once I received national certification as an adult NP I was able to apply for my Nurse Practitioner license. Fortunately, I was able to find a position in my chosen field that had a medical director that was willing to be my supervising physician for two years. We drafted the wording of the letter and submitted it to the Board of Nursing as we did again at the end of the two years.

During the COVID Emergency, Maine waived supervisory restrictions without any adverse patient outcomes. With 30 years of practice since the signing of our original bill, it is time to waive this supervisory requirement for Certified Nurse Practitioners.

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. Currently Nurse Practitioners are the only group of Advance Practice Nurses under the Board of Nursing with this requirement. The Certified Nurse Midwives, Certified Nurse Anesthetists, Certified Clinical Specialists do not have this supervisory restriction.

I urge you to unanimously support LD961, without reservation.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Sincerely yours,

Ellen Farnsworth, MSN, MEd. APRN, NP-C

MNPA Legislative Committee member and past president

Email: [rfarnsw1@maine.rr.com](mailto:rfarnsw1@maine.rr.com)

Cell: (207)671-4180