



**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 to you as a family nurse practitioner with 15 years of experience caring for the people of Piscataquis, Penobscot, and Somerset counties, President-Elect and Legislative Committee member of the Maine Nurse Practitioner Association, and a proud born and raised Mainer, in support of LD961, An Act to Address Maine's Health Care Workforce Shortage and Improve Access to Care.

Per the language of the bill, the request is to, "repeal the provision of law that a certified nurse practitioner who qualifies as an advanced practice registered nurse must practice for at least 24 months under the supervision of a physician or supervising nurse practitioner or be employed by a clinic or hospital that has a medical director who is a licensed physician. This bill also eliminates the supervising nurse practitioner designation which is no longer needed." Simply put, we are requesting that the antiquated political compromise from 1994 be lifted and to remove this unnecessary barrier to recruitment and retention of nurse practitioners to our state and to join the 16 states, District of Columbia, and 2 US territories that have already eliminated this restriction. We are not requesting a change or increase to scope of practice.

We are all aware of the growing challenges in healthcare today – especially in rural America. We have watched the people of Maine struggle with access to care and contend with growing wait times, healthcare provider transitions, and loss of healthcare services due to closures. This is most certainly true for my practice region. This is a time to approach healthcare in Maine with creativity, fiscal



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responsibility, and compassion. The 24-month supervision not only lacks evidence that it increases patient safety, but also creates an unnecessary delay in licensure and acts as a deterrent for nurse practitioners moving to or remaining in Maine. I would also argue that it puts undue stress on our already overburdened physicians and nurse practitioners here in Maine who must sign the letter of supervision.

Nurses continue to rank the highest of their professional peers as the most honest and ethical profession for the 23<sup>rd</sup> year. For the second consecutive year, U.S. News & World has ranked Nurse Practitioner as the number one job in America. We want to welcome nurse practitioners to the great State of Maine to support our growing healthcare access challenges specifically in primary care and mental health.

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,

Lori M. Towne, MSN, FNP-BC  
President-Elect, Maine Nurse Practitioner Association  
Member, Legislative Committee, Maine Nurse Practitioner Association