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**AARP Maine in support of LD 2088 An Act to Increase Access to Primary Care
Provided by Physician Associates**

Greetings Chairs Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson and Members of the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services. My name is Bridget Quinn, I am an Associate State Director of Advocacy and Outreach with AARP Maine. AARP is the nation's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering people 50 and older to choose how they live as they age. On behalf of our nearly 200,000 members in Maine thank you for the opportunity to testify in support LD 2088.

AARP Maine has a long history of supporting the state's 324,000 family caregivers who help make it possible for their parents, spouses, siblings, and other loved ones to live independently in their homes and communities. That's why we are writing to express our support for LD 2088 which would take steps to modernize the practice of Maine's Physician Associates (PAs) so that patients have direct access to PAs working to the full extent of their education and expertise.

AARP is fighting to improve access to affordable health care by cutting through red tape that prevents PAs from doing their jobs. Patients across Maine should have access to qualified providers in a variety of settings, including hospitals, medical offices, community clinics, long-term care settings, and at home. Physician Associates are a vital care provider helping older individuals to remain living in their homes and communities while also keeping them out of costly facility-based settings.

LD 2088 would be a step forward for the state's Physician Associates by allowing them to deliver care without having to rely solely on a physician to always be available for consultation. This will allow PAs to better serve people in need of care, which is especially important in the parts of our state that are experiencing a lack of providers.

AARP urges your support of LD 2088 to help increase access to timely healthcare. If you have questions or if there is further information we can provide, please feel free to contact me at bquinn@aarp.org or 207-272-8563.

Bridget Quinn
AARP Maine