



Maine Medical
Association



**TESTIMONY OF THE MAINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
AND
THE MAINE OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION**

Neither For Nor Against

LD 2088 – An Act to Increase Access to Primary Care Provided by Physician Associates

Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services
Room 220, Cross Building, Augusta, Maine
Tuesday, January 3, 2026

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and Members of the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services, my name is Anne Sedlack, and I am the Director of Advocacy for the Maine Medical Association. I am submitting this testimony neither for nor against LD 2088 – An Act to Increase Access to Primary Care Provided by Physician Associates on behalf of the Maine Medical Association and the Maine Osteopathic Association.

The Maine Medical Association (MMA) is a professional organization representing more than 4,300 allopathic and osteopathic physicians, residents, and medical students in Maine. MMA's mission is to support Maine physicians, advance the quality of medicine in Maine, and promote the health of all Maine people. The Maine Osteopathic Association (MOA) is a professional organization representing more than 1,200 osteopathic physicians, residents, and medical students in Maine whose mission is to serve the Osteopathic profession of the State of Maine through a coordinated effort of professional education, advocacy, and member services in order to ensure the availability of quality osteopathic health care to the people of this State. The MMA and MOA's legislative committees have joined to advocate with one voice.

Our professional associations and the Maine Academy of Physician Associates ("MEAPA") have a strong history of mutual respect when we disagree and collaboration when we agree. Regardless of the issue, we have sought compromise whenever possible. I am also proud of our work together, including joint statements with MEAPA, the Maine Nurse Practitioner Association, and others, around the clinician perspective on the importance of vaccines, including the Hepatitis B Birth Dose, and other issues.

When we determine how to testify on a bill that would change the status quo for another clinician, we center our analysis on whether patient safety would be compromised by the change. Not to gatekeep medicine, but rather to ensure our shared patients get the best care possible.

For example, one of our major concerns is ensuring that all members of the healthcare team are appropriately supported in their medical decision-making, especially just after training, and especially if choosing to practice in rural areas of Maine, where it can be isolating for clinicians practicing independently.

We testify in opposition when we truly believe the bill would harm our patients if it passes; however, it is also hard for us to testify in support because our members are not neutral on these issues. They see countless bills on the scope of practice or scope-of-practice adjacent, and see them as "death by a thousand cuts." Our members feel an obligation to defend the education and training required for an individual to treat patients in health care, because they know how critically important their own education and clinical training have been.

We weighed all of this when considering whether it is appropriate and in the public interest to reduce physician involvement with a PAs' practice. Our Associations have an obligation to articulate the important leadership role of physicians in our health care system and patients' interest in physicians leading their treatment teams. However, we believe MEAPA when it states that it seeks to achieve parity with how Nurse Practitioners can currently practice and that LD 2088 is the path to do so.

We believe that, since a previous Legislature granted this authority to NPs, this Legislature can and should extend it to PAs. We appreciate MEAPA members' interest in promoting the professionalism of PAs in our health care system, and appreciate the opportunity to work together for the betterment of our patients.

Thank you for considering the thoughts of Maine's physicians, and I am happy to discuss any questions you may have.

Best,

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Director of Advocacy
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