



11 Columbia St.
Augusta, ME 04330
Tel.: (207) 621-0313
Fax: (207) 622-4437
Pam@mnpa.us
www.mnpa.us

26 Years of Full Practice Authority as Healthcare Providers for the People of Maine

February 11, 2021

RE: Testimony in Opposition to LD 178 *“An Act to Reduce Waste of Prescription Medications”*

Senator Sanborn, Representative Tepler and Members of the Health Coverage, Insurance & Financial Services Committee,

My name is Pam Cahill, I live in Woolwich and a partner at Howe, Cahill & Company, a government relations firm here in Augusta. I appear today as the Executive Director of the Maine Nurse Practitioner Association.

Currently there are 2025 Nurse Practitioners actively licensed and working in Maine, providing quality health care within different practice environments throughout our state. NPs are independent practitioners with prescriptive authority, including scheduled drugs I-V.

MNPA opposes this legislation as it inappropriately puts limitations on the way NPs and other providers prescribe medications. All prescribers have the responsibility to prescribe medications appropriately. Putting restrictions on new prescriptions interferes with the patient/provider relationship and could be potentially dangerous, expensive and inconvenient for patients.

All patients have the right to ask for and receive a 30-day rather than a greater supply of their medication. Many patients prefer the convenience of a 90-day mail order, that is sometimes less expensive and reduces their co-pay and many use a combination of both.

Healthcare, particularly in current times and especially in the rural areas of Maine, is a constant struggle. Patients are faced with issues such as transportation and access, not to mention their ability to pay for the drugs they need. Every situation is different and the key is to be able to adjust to a patient’s circumstance.

As healthcare providers Nurse Practitioners oppose wasteful over prescribing practices. The decision of what medication and how much should be left to the provider and patient and not be mandated by legislation that interferes with the provider/patient relationship and creates an additional barrier to care.

Maine Nurse Practitioners encourage you to reject LD 178.
Thank you.

#####