



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 18, 2020

RE: Testimony in support of LD 295 An Act To Repeal Restrictions That Prohibit Certain Advanced Practice Registered Nurses from Providing Essential Health Care Services

Sanborn, Representative Tepler and Committee Members,

My name is Pam Cahill, I live in Woolwich and appear before you today representing the Maine Nurse Practitioner Association. I have served as their executive director for the past 16 years.

There are currently 2025 nurse practitioners licensed in Maine. NPs work in nearly every practice environment including but not limited to hospitals, medical practices, independent practices, clinics, and FQHCs.

On behalf of the MNPA I am in support of LD 295.

You have heard a lot about why current law creates a barrier to care, and about the studies that show that a 24-month supervisory relationship has no impact on patient safety and outcomes.

It occurs to me that you may not have heard much about how NPs (and other providers) actually work within their practice environment. They do not work in a vacuum. They work with other health care providers and often confer with colleagues about patient issues that they are having difficulty with. All providers do this. As a lay person I call it mentoring but in the medical arena it is called collaborating.

Unlike current law, it is an informal relationship among providers to achieve the best outcomes for patients and it happens every day.

I am sure those of you who are veteran legislators also mentor your new colleagues. And I also know that it is impossible for you to know about every bill that comes before you so you rely on people who serve in other committees to help you understand a particular piece of legislation that is out of your area of expertise. You go to the legislator that has the most knowledge about the issue. You ask questions, you may collaborate and you mentor. The same thing, to a different degree, that happens within healthcare relationships. You are not required to do this and you certainly are not mandated by law to do this, but it happens every day.

It seems to me, that the mentoring or collaborating that occurs within healthcare is a far better way to assist colleagues, newly licensed or veterans, than an artificial relationship that may have no practical purpose other than to satisfy a sentence in Maine law.

Thank you for your consideration. I urge you to vote ought to pass on LD 295.
Pamela Cahill, Executive Director
Maine Nurse Practitioner association

