

Senator Sanborn, Representative Tepler, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services, my name is Dr. Norma Dreyfus. I am a retired Pediatrician living in Arrowsic and am here to urge you to vote no on LD 295.

As an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, I taught medical students, residents as well as Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (PNPs), having been the Medical Director of one of the first PNP training programs in the New York area. Indeed, I participated in a meeting of doctors and nurses across the Country that took place in St Louis, Mo, to define “what is a PNP” and develop curriculum.

In my clinical teaching of doctors and nurses, I found two of the most important issues to be learned were a clear understanding of one’s limits and the ability to recognize the patient who does not fit into the text book picture. These skills and that of clinical reasoning cannot be taught in the classroom or even with limited clinical experience but need to be taught through prolonged direct work and mentorship.

I have heard that many clinicians who have taken on the mentorship role are simply signing off at the end of the term rather than actually providing the clinical experience. This bill then would put into statute what is already happening. If that is indeed the case, there needs to be oversight and evaluation of those providing the mentorship role, rather than dismissal of the process.

Before becoming competent providers future doctors are required to complete post graduate clinical training of at least 2 years and more depending on specialty. Nurse practitioners as well need a concentrated post graduate clinical experience to become competent providers. I urge you to vote no on LD 295.

Respectfully submitted,
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