

Greg Feero
Waterville

Dear Committee Members,

I write today to strongly urge you to oppose LD295- An Act To Allow Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists To Bill for Their Services.

I am a board-certified family physician practicing in Fairfield, ME with 20 years of experience, an educator of physicians at a Maine family medicine residency training program, and a supervising physician for a recently graduated NP. I strongly feel that elimination of the current required supervision period for newly graduated NPs that the bill calls for will have a detrimental health impact on Mainers. NPs immediately post completing their terminal degree just do not have adequate clinical experience to safely provide care to often highly medically complex patients without the support and guidance of more experienced health care providers. Additionally, elimination of the supervision period would likely have an adverse impact on the public perception of the quality of care provided by the NP community – which would be a very unfortunate outcome given the shortage of health care providers in the state.

Arguments are being made that completing NP school and starting practice without supervision is equivalent to physicians starting practice directly after completing residency training. This substantially misrepresents reality.

A better analogy would be if Maine allowed medical students to start practice immediately after graduating medical school without completing a highly supervised and rigorous (80 hour work weeks) internship year and multi- year residency.

Physicians are NOT allowed to start unsupervised practice after completing medical school, and the medical community would not support them doing so because the community recognizes that newly graduated physicians have a lot yet to learn to provide safe, high quality care.

Essentially all practicing physicians in Maine have completed at least 3 years of rigorous, highly supervised clinical training after medical school. Some surgical specialties require 5-7 years of training.

Providing high quality care is immensely complex. Eliminating the current required supervision period for NPs (or for that matter shortening training requirements for physicians or PAs) would create a race to the bottom in terms of patient safety and provision of high quality health care. Please don't hesitate to contact me at (207)453-3100 if you have any questions that I might help with.

I urge you to oppose LD295.

Sincerely,

Greg Feero MD, PhD