

February 15, 2021

LETTER OF TESTIMONY

Senator Sanborn, Representative Teplar, and the members of the Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services Committee,

I am writing today to encourage your support for L.D. 295, “An Act To Repeal Restrictions That Prohibit Certain Advanced Practice Registered Nurses from Providing Essential Health Care Services.” This bill would remove the transition to practice (TTP) period of two years for newly licensed nurse practitioners in the State of Maine. I would highly encourage all members of this committee to support the removal of any practice barriers for Advanced Practice Nurse Practitioners (APRN) to increase access to healthcare by the citizens of Maine.

The current 2-year TTP for Nurse Practitioners (NP) in Maine needlessly restricts the number of NPs who would otherwise evaluate, diagnose and treat patients, and creating unnecessary geographic maldistribution of services and delays in care. There is no current evidence to support that the additional time spent completing these types of practice requirements as a pre-requisite for licensure and practice makes patients safer or clinicians more prepared. All NPs are trained, educated and qualified to provide high-quality, cost-effective, independent care immediately following graduation and receiving a national certification status. NPs are integral to the improved access to care, especially in rural and under-served areas, of which there are many here in Maine.

During the Covid-19 pandemic Governor Mills’s Emergency Orders have removed all practice restrictions on APRNs to increase access to care during this demanding time on healthcare providers. The improved access to care and removal of all restrictions placed on APRNs should be a permanent change here in Maine to continue the increased access to all the citizens of Maine, and the passage of LD 295 would allow this.

Please support LD 295, and help improve quality, cost-effective access to health care for all of Maine.

Sincerely,

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