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February 18, 2021

RE: IN SUPPORT OF LD 254: An Act to Allow Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists to Bill for Their Services

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

My name is Kathleen Forti-Gallant and I am a Family Nurse Practitioner from Stetson, Maine who works in Orthopedic Surgery. I am writing on behalf of the Maine Nurse Practitioner Association (MNPA) to urge you to support LD 254 "An Act to Allow Certified Nurse Anesthetists to Bill for Their Services." As you are aware, this bill would require insurers to provide coverage & payment to Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA) for their services as long as within the CRNA's scope of practice and are covered services by insurance. Direct reimbursement is already included in Maine law for other Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN), such as Nurse Midwives and Nurse Practitioners. This legislation would align CRNA reimbursement with other APRNs in Maine. CRNAs should be able to work to the top of their education, certification, & scope of practice (Quraishi, Jordan, & Hoyem, 2017, p. 382) and be able to be reimbursed for the care that they provide.

Current reimbursement models create an onerous process for hospitals and other facilities in Maine with significant administrative burden to obtain reimbursement for CRNAs whom they employ. The current lack of direct reimbursement can also be burdensome for patients who may need to pay out of pocket then seek reimbursement from the insurance company, which can be a financial hardship for many people. Approving this legislation would not adversely impact our state including Mainecare.

Reimbursement for professional services is not only fair, but essential to providing Mainers with access to high quality cost-effective care provided by CRNAs especially in rural and underserved areas as well as decreasing the travel burden for patients and their families.

On behalf of MNPA, I respectfully urge you to vote in favor of LD 254. We appreciate the opportunity to share this testimony with you and please feel free to contact me with any questions.
Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Forti-Gallant RNFA, FNPC, DNP
Co-Chair MNPA Legislative Committee
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Reference:

Quraishi, J., Jordan, L., & Hoyem, R. (2017). Anesthesia Medicare Trend Analysis Shows Increased Utilization of CRNA Services. *AANA Journal*, 85(5), 375-383.