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To: Senator Sanborn, Representative Tepler, and Committee Members

From: Sandra Hayes MSN, APRN, ANP-C

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

Senator Sanborn, Representative Tepler, and Committee Members,

My name is Sandra Hayes, I live in Brunswick, Maine and I have been a registered nurse for 36 years and a nurse practitioner for 25 years. I am in full support of LD 295.

I come before this committee today to discuss the education that a nurse practitioner must obtain before practicing. All nurse practitioners are registered nurses who have an advanced degree. Nurse practitioners receive an intensive two-year education which includes didactic and clinical work. Clinical rotations include working with experienced nurse practitioners and/or physicians in their area of expertise. In my own experience, I rarely saw my “supervising” physician as I worked in a multi-centered non-profit and she worked at another clinic site. The 24-month supervisory provision adds no benefits in terms of patient safety or quality of care. In addition, all nurse practitioners must maintain national certification. These certifying bodies require passage of a national exam and continuing education. Many nurse practitioners continue their education by obtaining a PhD or DNP or less formally through certifications and specialty care.

Evidence-based studies of health care by nurse practitioners have concluded that patient outcomes are equal to or better than that of other providers. There are no studies that show that the 24-month supervision impacts patient outcomes.

24-month supervision hinders nurse practitioner from providing health care. Over the past year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this provision has been lifted and nurse practitioner are continuing to provide safe, quality health care to the people of the State of Maine.

I urge this committee to support LD 295 to allow nurse practitioners the ability to provide care for which they have been educated for.

Thank you,

Sandra Hayes MSN, APRN, ANP-C