



March 16th, 2021

Dear The Honorable Heather Sanborn, The Honorable Denise Tepler and the Members of the Joint Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services,

I have had the great pleasure of caring for patients since completing my three-year residency in Internal Medicine at Maine Medical Center in 2000 and receiving my medical degree from Brown University in 1997. **It is with this perspective that I urge you to vote Ought Not to Pass when you deliberate LD 295, An Act to Repeal Restrictions That Prohibit Certain Advanced Practice Registered Nurses from Providing Essential Health Care Services.**

Post graduate supervision of nurse practitioners is critical to the health and safety of the citizens of Maine. There is simply no replacement for the hands-on learning that we all experience when we are suddenly responsible for the life of another human being. There is a reason we call it "the practice of medicine." Serious, life-threatening diseases often present with what might appear to be minor, self-limited symptoms, and it takes practice to distinguish between the two.

Self-awareness of one's own clinical limitations and deficiencies truly can only be acquired through the passage of time and the accumulation of experience. It is crucial that this should occur in a supervisory setting where it is "safe," and in fact expected, that post-graduate trainees admit deficits in knowledge and may ask for help.

Please do not compromise on the quality of care the citizens of Maine would receive at the hands of our nurse practitioner colleagues should this bill become law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phyllidia Ku-Ruth", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Phyllidia Ku-Ruth, MD, FACP

President and Interim CEO