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## Testimony of Rep. Anne Perry Introducing LD 254, "An Act To Allow Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists To Bill for Their Services" February 18, 2021

Good morning Senator Sanborn, Representative Tepler and members of the Committee On Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services. I am Rep. Anne Perry and I represent nine communities in Washington County. I am here to introduce LD 254, "An Act To Allow Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists To Bill for Their Services."

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) are now able to work independently in rural hospitals and this has been a good thing for those hospitals and the patients they serve. They are not, however, able to bill for their services as independent practitioners.

This bill requires insurers, health maintenance organizations and nonprofit hospitals or medical service organizations to provide coverage for the services of certified registered nurse anesthetists provided to individuals.

Most Advance Practice Registered Nurses are reimbursed for their services under Maine law. In all fairness, CRNAs should be as well.

This bill was introduced in the 129<sup>th</sup> legislature as LD1434. After negotiations with insurance company representative mainly Anthem. We came to an agreement and that is what I am introducing today. LD1434 was voted out of committee and was left and died in the Senate without action because of the early closing in March. As a result I am bringing forth LD254 with the hope that you will pass this out of committee to the legislature.

Thank you for your consideration.