



PO Box 135
Woolwich, Maine 04579
Amie.marzen@gmail.com
207-621-0313
www.mnpa.us

*27 Years of **Full Practice Authority** as Healthcare Providers for the People of Maine*

February 27, 2022

Testimony in Support of LD 1899

An Act to Ensure Safe Entry and Access for People Seeking Health Care and Other Constitutional Rights

Senator Anne Carney and Representative Thom Harnett, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Ellen Farnsworth, a resident of Portland. I am a Nurse Practitioner in Maine with over 25 years' experience in various practice settings including Primary Care, Women's Health, and Substance Use Treatment.

As a long-standing member and former President of the Maine Nurse Practitioner Association (MNPA), I am writing on behalf of MNPA in support of LD 1899, to assure that our patients have safe entry and access to their healthcare. MNPA further supports the protections in this bill for providers and their staffs from threatening phone calls, vandalism, and threats to physical harm.

Defining medical safety and delineating a safety zone as statute with the provision of violations as a Class E crime will help protect the safety of patients, providers, staff as they enter and leave their facility. The Maine Nurse Practitioner Association has always supported safe access to health care, a person's right to choose their health options, and be a participating partner in their health care decisions. We all should be able to make decisions about our health with dignity, respect, confidentiality and safety.

We have all seen the harassment outside health facilities here and across the country on the news. It is anxiety producing for many patients to enter a health care facility, let alone having to run a gauntlet to get to that care. LD 1899 lends protection to patients so they can enter safely, respectfully, confidentially,

On Behalf of the Maine Nurse Practitioner Association we respectfully request that you vote ought to pass on LD1899.

Thank you for your attention to this important bill. If you have any questions, please reach out to me.

Sincerely,

Ellen Farnsworth, MSN, MEd, APRN, NP-C
55 Old Mast Road
Portland, Maine 04102
207-671-4180
rfarnsw1@maine.rr.com