

EXAMPLE LEGISLATIVE LETTER TO LAWMAKER FROM STUDENTS

(Month)(Day)(Year)

The Honorable (First Name)(Last Name)

Re: **LD 1660**: “An Act to Improve Access to Physician Assistant Care”

Dear *Senator/Representative*

I am a constituent of yours. I live at *insert home address*. **I am currently a (first/second year) physician assistant student at the University of New England in Portland. I am training to provide health care to our community members within the coming (months or year). Insert any personal details about where/ setting you hope to practice in.**

I’m reaching out to you regarding **LR 1660**: “An Act to Improve Access to Physician Assistant Care.” Senator Linda Sanborn is the bill’s sponsor.

As you may be aware, in Maine there are numerous rural communities that often rely on Physician Assistants (PAs) as the sole primary care provider (PCP). Maine has the highest median age in the nation. Maine PAs provide wide ranging care to this largely underserved and aging patient population, many of whom live in rural or remote locations *like those you serve (if applicable)*. Unfortunately, restrictions exist in current PA licensing and regulatory processes that impede greater access to quality care for Maine residents. The inability to expand access due to professional barriers on PAs impacts especially middle-aged and older Americans who frequently live in areas facing provider shortages.

The current law on the books for PAs has created many outdated practice level barriers to health care services and is causing unnecessary strain on physician-PA teams. The PA profession was founded 50 years ago because of physician shortages and as an answer to population health needs. In today’s world, Maine continues to face that same shortage, which in turn supports the need to implement provisions that allow our highly trained PAs to expand access for our aging and underserved populations. **Students, like myself, graduating from Maine’s only PA program will be entering the job market and facing barriers that restrict our ability to meet the medical needs of our communities.**

This new legislation will eliminate unnecessary regulatory consequences that have created strain on PA-physician practice relationships by updating our antiquated and restrictive PA practice laws. The bill will expand access to care for Maine patient populations and simultaneously increase PA recruitment and retention in Maine. **Maine PAs are educated on and committed to the team model of practice. Providing high quality patient care is what we are training for and we are ready to fill the gaps in medical care for Maine residents.**

Can I count on your support of **LD 1660**? Please let me know if you have any additional questions or need more information.

Thank you for all of the work you are doing.
Sincerely,

Sign your name

Your name, title

Street Address

City, State Zip Code