



State of Maine | 131st Legislature
Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
Testimony of Ann Tucker on behalf of Portland Community Health Center
January 23, 2025

In Opposition To:

LD 209 “An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025” Sponsored by Representative Gattine

Senator Rotundo, Senator Bailey, Representative Gattine, and Representative Mathieson, and members of the Committee On Appropriations and Financial Affairs and the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services, I am Ann Tucker, Chief Executive Officer of Portland Community Health Center dba Greater Portland Health, one of Maine’s 20 community health centers (CHCs), also known as Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), and part of the largest independent primary care network in the state.

Thank you for the important work you do supporting community members across the state. I am writing to ask that the one-time funding approved in **Public Law 2023, chapter 643** for developing and expanding pharmacy services and access to affordable priced prescription drugs for patients of federally qualified health centers continue to be supported and in the budget. Greater Portland Health was planning to apply for funding to support developing plans and a feasibility study for a future pharmacy location.

Due to the lack of affordable housing, increase in the number of homeless community members, and lack of space in shelters, the **General Assistance** statutes should not be changed to limit eligibility to three months of housing assistance and 30 days of aid for all other non-housing related locations within a twelve-month period.

The expenses related to providing high quality healthcare have continued to increase and annual **MaineCare cost-of-living increases** for health care providers is vital to our ability to continue to provide access to everyone in the community and to hire/retain team members.

Greater Portland Health’s mission is to provide high quality patient-centered healthcare that is accessible, affordable, and culturally sensitive. We currently serve over 15,000 active patients. We provide medical, mental health, oral health, substance use treatment, recuperative care and vision services to members of our community, regardless of their health insurance status or ability to pay. We have 17 locations across Portland, South Portland and Westbrook. On behalf of Greater Portland Health, thank you for considering our comments. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly at atucker@greaterportlandhealth.org with any follow-up questions.

Sincerely,

Ann Tucker
Ann Tucker, CEO