



# Maine Medical Center

MaineHealth

February 18, 2021

To: The Maine State Legislature Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee


Ref: LD221; Support of the Area Health Education (AHEC) Network Funding

On behalf of the Maine Medical Center Department of Family Medicine, we would like to submit this statement of support for continued funding for the University of New England (UNE) Area Health Education (AHEC) Network. The Maine AHEC Network provides critical support to our states' rural and underserved areas through its widely dispersed, active and innovative AHEC Centers.

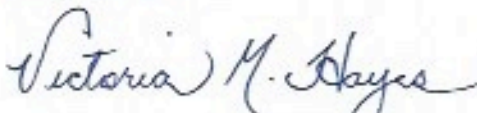
The Maine Medical Center Department of Family Medicine is devoted to providing a superior education for residents and medical students, delivering high quality care to our patients, families and communities, and continuous quality improvement. The Maine AHEC Network has furthered our mission by support of programming such as Doc4aDay and the Family Medicine Interest Group designed to encourage high school and medical students to consider a career in primary care, with the ultimate goal of addressing the physician shortage that our state faces. The Maine AHEC Network has also supported faculty development for education surrounding issues of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Interprofessional Education programs that help us address the changing face of health care delivery. We have enjoyed our community partnership for many years and the work we have accomplished to address our mutual goals.

We would like to add our voices as strong advocates for the continued support of this valuable organization. Our Family Medicine programming, recruitment efforts, community ties and collaboration on shared goals such as a focus on the underserved would suffer without the support of the Maine AHEC Network.

Sincerely,



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