



Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association (MMA)

In Support of
LD 510, *An Act to Protect the Public Health by Allowing the Appointment of Associated Health Officers*

March 22, 2023

Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer and members of the Health and Human Services Committee. My name is Kate Dufour, and I am submitting testimony in support of LD 510 on behalf of the 70 municipal leaders elected by their peers to serve on the Association's Legislative Policy Committee and directed to establish positions on bills of municipal interest.

Municipal leaders support this legislation as a commonsense solution that provides communities the flexibility necessary to respond to public health threats. Allowing an associated health officer to work under the direction of the appointed Local Health Officer, who is bound by the training standards and qualifications established in state statute, will enable communities to put into place the support systems necessary to ensure that all residents and guests are protected when public health is at risk. Simply put, the approach enables municipalities to tap into the knowledge of residents who are willing to lend a hand.

It is solutions of this nature that help to strengthen state/municipal partnership. For that reason, municipal leaders urge your support of LD 510.

Thank you for considering the municipal perspective on this issue. If you have any questions about our position, please contact me at kdufour@memun.org or 592-4038.