

My name is Stephen C. Shannon. I am President Emeritus of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, former dean of the University of New England (UNE) College of Osteopathic Medicine, and a current member of the UNE Board of Trustees. I write in support of LD 1979.

I spent nearly 30 years in my professional life assessing and supporting policies and institutions to create an adequate physician and health care workforce for Maine and the nation. I want to address one aspect of Maine's health care challenges that this legislation addresses--the shortage of primary care physicians.

We know:

1. There is a shortage of physicians in Maine, and it is projected to get worse.ⁱ
2. Maine's older and large rural population creates unique challenges to providing adequate health care to its population.ⁱⁱ
3. A robust primary care system is fundamental to providing quality health care in Maine.ⁱⁱⁱ
4. A primary determinant of where a physician will practice is the location of their clinical training as a medical student and a resident.^{iv}
5. To address the shortage of primary care physicians now and in the future, support is needed for Maine's physician clinical training environment. LD 1797 will help tackle this issue.

This legislation is designed to support the development of the health care workforce for Maine's people. It helps address the shortages of physicians and other health care workers in Maine. Without this legislation, despite the best efforts of Maine institutions to train more physicians, too many will leave to practice elsewhere. I urge you to pass LD 1979.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Stephen C. Shannon, DO, MPH

Biddeford, ME

ⁱ Maine Health Workforce Forum. (2019). Maine's Primary Care Physician Workforce: Opportunities to Improve Access and Quality of Care. Retrieved from <https://www.mainequalitycounts.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Maines-Primary-Care-Physician-Workforce-Opportunities-to-Improve-Access-and-Quality-of-Care.pdf>

ⁱⁱ Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 2020 Maine Health Equity Report. Accessed May 2, 2023, from <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/population-health-equity/ph-data-reports>

ⁱⁱⁱ Maine Health Access Foundation. "Primary Care in Maine: A Call to Action." March 2019. Accessed May 2, 2023, from <https://www.mehaf.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Primary-Care-in-Maine-A-Call-to-Action-March-2019.pdf>

^{iv} Bushy A, et al. The Association of Rural Clinical Training With Primary Care Physician Practice Location: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis. J Rural Health. 2020;36(2):213-223; Association of American Medical Colleges. 2018 Physician Specialty Data Report. Accessed May 2, 2023, from <https://www.aamc.org/system/files/reports/1/2018-specialty-data-book-complete.pdf>; Xierali IM, et al.

Factors Affecting Family Medicine Residents' Choice of Practice Location. *J Grad Med Educ.* 2014;6(3):520-526.

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