

# MaineHealth

**MaineHealth Written Testimony**  
**In Support of LD 2125, “An Act to Establish the Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementias Advisory Council Within the Department of Health and Human Services and to Require a State Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementias”**  
**Wednesday, January 24, 2024**

Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, please accept this written testimony on behalf of MaineHealth in support of LD 2125, “An Act to Establish the Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementias Advisory Council Within the Department of Health and Human Services and to Require a State Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementias.”

MaineHealth is an integrated nonprofit health care system that provides the full continuum of health care services to the residents of eleven counties in Maine and one in New Hampshire. As part of our vision of “Working Together So Maine’s Communities are the Healthiest in America,” MaineHealth, which includes Maine Behavioral Healthcare (MBH), is committed to creating a seamless system of behavioral healthcare across Maine, coordinating hospital psychiatric care with community-based treatment services, and better access to behavioral healthcare through integration with primary care services.

MaineHealth provides high-quality services for older adults in the communities we serve. We are working to become designated as an Age Friendly Health System by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, and as part of that work are actively implementing screening for dementia, providing education, and working to enhance our management within the health system. However, community resources present gaps that vary across different regions and we believe that LD 2125 could significantly contribute to better patient management.

As our population ages, it becomes increasingly crucial to emphasize the need for comprehensive support systems for individuals living with dementia and their caregivers. [Maine Reaching for the Summit: Addressing Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias, Maine State Plan: 2022-2027](#) is a commendable initiative, but effective implementation and progress tracking mechanisms are vital, and LD 2125 seems to provide the structure needed for this purpose.

We would suggest, however, if the Committee moves forward with the legislation before you today to add a primary care provider to the membership of the Advisory Council. It would be important to incorporate the voice of a rural provider as many patients with dementia live in rural areas, and access to specialty care, even in urban areas, is limited.

In conclusion, LD 2125 represents a critical step toward addressing the challenges associated with Alzheimer's and other dementias in our state. We urge you to support the bill to ensure the establishment of an effective and responsive mechanism for the implementation of the state's Alzheimer's plan.

Thank you for your consideration,

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