

State of Maine | 131st Legislature Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services Testimony of Hannah Miller on behalf of the Maine Mobile Health Program 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 Ingwersen, Representative Gattine, and Representative Meyer, and members of the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and the Committee on Health and Human Services, I am Hannah Miller, Director of Outreach at Maine Mobile Health Program, 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.

Maine Mobile Health Program (MMHP) is Maine's farmworker health center, supporting farmworkers, seafood processors, and their families statewide. We offer medical, behavioral health, and nursing care through our mobile units, referrals to dental, vision, and specialty care, pharmacy assistance, and care coordination to community members regardless of their health insurance status or ability to pay. In 2024, we served 1083 patients, 92% of whom had no health insurance.

I strongly oppose the decision to remove 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. This decision will directly impact the health and well-being of our community members, placing a significant burden on those who rely on our services.

This funding is critical to expanding in-house pharmacy services at MMHP. Part of our model includes offering mobile health services directly in the community. We stock a selection of prescriptions on the mobile medical units to reduce the need for patients and staff to go to the pharmacy the next day. For example, over the past two summers, our team strategized how to use our in-house pharmacy services to purchase and deliver three months' worth of essential medications to several patients who otherwise could not afford them in Aroostook County. This funding would allow us to improve our pharmacy program, including increasing the types of medications we can offer directly on the mobile units and expanding our services.

On behalf of Maine Mobile Health Program, thank you for considering our comments. Please do not hesitate to contact me at hmiller@mainemobile.org with any follow-up questions.

Sincerely,

Director of Outreach

Maine Mobile Health Program hmiller@mainemobile.org

Hannah a Miller