



**Maine Medical
Association**



**TESTIMONY OF THE MAINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
AND
THE MAINE OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION**

In Support Of

[LD 480](#) - An Act to Support Healthy Weight by Providing MaineCare Coverage for Certain
Weight Loss Medications

Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services
Room 220, Cross Building, Augusta, Maine
Tuesday, March 4, 2025

Good Afternoon, Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services. My name is Anne Sedlack, and I am the Director of Advocacy at the Maine Medical Association. I am submitting this testimony in support of LD 480 - An Act to Support Healthy Weight by Providing MaineCare Coverage for Certain Weight Loss Medications.

The Maine Medical Association (MMA) is a professional organization representing more than 4,000 physicians, residents, and medical students in Maine. MMA's mission is to support Maine physicians, advance the quality of medicine in Maine, and promote the health of all Maine people. The Maine Osteopathic Association (MOA) is a professional organization representing more than 1,200 osteopathic physicians, residents, and medical students in Maine whose mission is to serve the Osteopathic profession of the State of Maine through a coordinated effort of professional education, advocacy, and member services in order to ensure the availability of quality osteopathic health care to the people of this State.

The MMA and MOA's legislative committees have joined to advocate with one voice in support of LD 480.

Expanding MaineCare coverage to include weight loss medications would support improving access to care for patients who are overweight or obese, particularly those who may not otherwise afford these treatments. This helps ensure that more people have access to evidence-based therapies that could be critical for their health. Obesity is linked to a number of chronic health conditions, such as diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, and

certain cancers. By providing coverage for weight loss medications, the state can help prevent these long-term health issues, ultimately reducing healthcare costs and improving public health.

Our members are deeply concerned about rising healthcare costs, so we weighed whether this bill, like other mandates, would increase the healthcare costs. However, we have determined the benefits of this mandate would ultimately help decrease healthcare costs. Addressing obesity early on can reduce the long-term healthcare costs associated with treating chronic healthcare issues. We see supporting weight loss medication coverage as a proactive measure that could reduce overall healthcare spending by preventing these costly conditions.

Thank you for considering the thoughts of Maine's physicians and public health community about LD 480. We urge you to support this bill.

Thank you,

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