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## Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

### In Opposition to LD 627, *An Act to Require Insurance Coverage for Glucagon-like Peptide-1 Receptor Agonist Medication*

March 20, 2025

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Senator Bailey, Representative Gramlich and members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee, my name is Kate Dufour, and I am submitting testimony in opposition to LD 627 on behalf of the municipal leaders who serve on the Association's Legislative Policy Committee.

To be clear, MMA is not providing testimony on the merits of making GLP-1 medications widely available or on the efficacy of the medication's impact on long-term health outcomes. We are certain that there are others who will have the expertise necessary to advise the committee on those issues.

However, municipal leaders are very well versed with the adverse outcomes associated with well-meaning initiatives that extend benefits to a group of individuals without identifying how those expenses will be funded. Far too often when policies do not specifically describe how and who will fund resulting expenses, such as the cost of implementing unfunded state mandates or via the extension of exemptions, the financial impacts are shifted to the property taxpayer.

With respect to LD 627, the cost of providing access to GLP-1 medications will not be borne by insurance companies, but rather by the employers and employees who pay health insurance premiums. For property taxpayers, that not only includes a share of the premiums funded by municipal employers, but also a portion of the benefits extended to county and school employees.

Absent state funding, the cost for implementing this measure will trickle down to the property taxpayers. Since towns and cities must pay county and school assessments, in addition to funding municipal services, local decisionmakers will be left with very few options, including increasing mil rates, reducing municipal services, or a combination of the two.

While it is true that there is nothing in statutes requiring municipalities to share in the cost of funding premiums, the very employees who plow our roads, respond to emergencies, and conduct elections deserve fair salary and benefit packages in recognition of their public service.

Municipal officials simply ask that the Legislature fund their programs and policy priorities, rather than shift those costs onto the property taxpayers.

Thank you for your time and consideration of the municipal perspective on LD 627.