



**Testimony of Jim Bailinson, MaineHealth
In Support of LD 983, “An Act Regarding Service of Notice of Restricted
Person Status to Hospitalized Patients”
March 24, 2025**

Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, I am Jim Bailinson, Corporate Counsel at MaineHealth, and I am here on behalf of MaineHealth in support LD 983, “An Act Regarding Service of Notice of Restricted Person Status to Hospitalized Patients.”

MaineHealth is an integrated non-profit health care system that provides a continuum of health care services to communities throughout Maine and New Hampshire. Every day, our over 24,000 care team members support our vision of “Working Together so Our Communities are the Healthiest in America” by providing a range of services from primary and specialty physician services to a continuum of behavioral health care services, community and tertiary hospital care, home health care and a lab.

MaineHealth recognizes the important role of the weapons restriction order process and works cooperatively with law enforcement in these situations consistent with the requirements of patient rights and confidentiality laws. There have been recent instances, however, where law enforcement had difficulty serving weapons restriction orders on hospitalized patients due to patient confidentiality laws, and LD 983 seeks to clarify hospitals’ responsibilities regarding cooperation with law enforcement for purposes of restricted person notice.

I’d like to provide a few examples of where the existing law has created confusion. Recently, a patient had been placed on restricted or confidential status in the hospital directory, which is their right. We can only confirm the patient’s presence in the hospital to people who are informed of their restricted status and given a code word to be able to access them. In another case, a patient was on a behavioral health unit where to protect patient privacy we do not acknowledge their presence to those who inquire. In both these cases, the court orders were eventually served on the patients once the relevant hospital personnel were contacted by law enforcement.

LD 983 will confirm that patient rights are not violated by allowing service of the court orders in these circumstances and will remove a level of confusion over this process.

Thank you and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.