



**Maine Medical
Association**



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

In Opposition to

**LD 1024- An Act to Expand the List of Crimes That Do Not Qualify for Immunity Under
Maine's Good Samaritan Laws Concerning Drug-related Medical Assistance**

Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety
Room 436, State House, Augusta, Maine
Monday, March 31st, 2025

Good Afternoon, Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety. My name is Kinna Thakarar, DO, and I am an infectious disease and addiction medicine physician in Portland, Maine. I am submitting this testimony in opposition to LD 1024- An Act to Expand the List of Crimes That Do Not Qualify for Immunity Under Maine's Good Samaritan Laws Concerning Drug-related Medical Assistance on behalf of the Maine Medical Association and Maine Osteopathic Association.

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 opposition to LD 1024.

As many of you likely know, Maine's Good Samaritan Law is widely regarded as the strongest in the nation. This is not an accident; it is an achievement that was hard fought for. When the Legislature passed this law, its goal was clear: to take bold and broad action to save the lives of friends, family, and community members by prioritizing their well-being over prosecuting minor criminal offenses.

LD 1024 is an attack on this achievement and seeks to put prosecuting minor criminal offenses ahead of the lives of community members. By expanding the list of crimes that do not qualify for immunity under Maine's Good Samaritan Laws, the State would be placing

an incentive for people not to call 911 when they are in desperate need of drug-related medical assistance. This is a risk we cannot take, and it could lead to the unnecessary deaths of people who could have been saved had 911 been promptly called.

Thank you for considering the thoughts of Maine's physicians and public health community about LD 1024. We urge you to oppose this bill.

Thank you,

Kinna Thakarar, DO, MPH
Portland, Maine