



**Testimony in Support of LD 1235:  
An Act to Establish Transparency in Opioid Settlement Funds Allocated to Municipalities or Counties**

April 3, 2025

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and Honorable Members of the Committee on HHS,

My name is Tess Parks. I am the Policy Director of the Maine Recovery Action Project (ME-RAP), a grassroots network of Mainers working on community and public policy based solutions to substance use. I am here today to testify in support of portions of LD 1235 on behalf of our statewide team of organizers.

Our organizing team has not yet had the opportunity to review the sponsor's amendment language so I am not prepared to share our position on that portion of the proposal. However, our team remains in strong support of the policy goal to ensure all recipients of opioid settlement funds (OSF) publicly report what they receive and how they spend it. We deeply appreciate the leadership of Rep. Roeder and Rep. Brennan in advancing legislation that strengthens OSF transparency at both the municipal and county levels, as well as each of you for the unanimous vote on LD 110 last week.

Over the last week, our network of partners working on OSF transparency alerted us to pending legislation in Maryland, [HB0798](https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/hb/hb0798T.pdf)<sup>1</sup>, which is currently awaiting the Governor's signature. This bill includes **specific** public reporting requirements, including the creation of a public dashboard that must display: (1) a payment schedule of estimated OSF disbursements to the state, counties, and municipalities; (2) past spending of OSF; (3) spending plans and funding priorities; and (4) detailed descriptions of initiatives funded by the settlement, including performance metrics where applicable.

While Maine's Opioid Settlement MOU<sup>2</sup> requires the Maine Recovery Council to "develop a centralized public dashboard . . . for public expenditure data from any part or regional council that received recovery funds," it does not clearly define the types of data that must be collected and reported. We request that you consider adding more specific reporting requirements to the OSF reporting required in this legislation. This will ensure that advocates, lawmakers, and the public have a clear understanding of what is happening across the State relating to OSF spending.

Having a clear set of reporting guidelines will enhance transparency, accountability, and public trust in how these critical funds are used.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/hb/hb0798T.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://nationalopioidsettlement.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Maine-Subdivision-2023-Memorandum-of-Understanding-Regarding-Opioid-Settlement-Funds.pdf>

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