



**Maine Medical  
Association**



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

**In Support Of**

**LD 1311- An Act to Expand Maine's Health Care Workforce by Improving Educational Opportunities**

Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services  
Room 209, Cross Building, Augusta, Maine  
Friday, April 4th, 2025

Good morning, Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. My name is Anne Sedlack, and I am the Director of Advocacy at the Maine Medical Association. I am submitting this testimony supporting LD 1311, An Act to Expand Maine's Health Care Workforce by Improving Educational Opportunities, on behalf of the Maine Medical Association and Maine Osteopathic Association.

The Maine Medical Association (MMA) is a professional organization representing over 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 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. We have all determined that we should testify in support of LD 1311 for several reasons.

We have asserted for a long time that increased support for residency spots is critical to the future of Maine healthcare. Expanding funding to rural residency programs will help retain more medical graduates within the state rather than losing them to out-of-state programs. The establishment of preceptorships and funding for the costs of their recruitment, training, and time will help ensure that medical students receive high-quality education and mentorships that will make them better physicians.

This bill also focuses on developing these programs in rural areas. By funding rural clinical rotations and residency programs, the bill encourages physicians to practice in underserved communities, improving access to care.. Similarly, physicians who train in rural areas are more likely to stay and practice there, helping boost the rural healthcare system and improve access to care in these areas. This is particularly important to our organizations because improving access to healthcare was a key priority in a recent survey of our members.

Our organizations have always aimed to improve the practice environment for Maine physicians and medical students and advance the quality of medicine for all Mainers. LD 1311 significantly furthers these goals, and we hope you will support it.

Thank you for considering the thoughts of Maine's physicians.

Thank you,

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