

MedRhythms, Inc. 183 Middle St. Portland ME 04101

The Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Testimony from Brian Harris, CEO, MedRhythms, Inc.

In Support Of

L.D. 281

An Act to Provide Support for Certain Maine Discovery Museum Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Educational Programming Throughout the State

9 April 2025

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and distinguished members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee,

My name is Brian Harris, and I am the CEO of MedRhythms, Inc., a digital therapeutics company headquartered in Portland, Maine, at the intersection of neuroscience, music, and technology. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of L.D. 281, An Act to Provide Support for Certain Maine Discovery Museum Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Educational Programming Throughout the State.

At MedRhythms, our mission is to use cutting-edge science and technology to improve the lives of people living with neurological injury and disease. In 2023, we launched our flagship product InTandem<sup>TM</sup>, a safe, use-at-home device to improve walking and ambulation in adults with chronic stroke. Just this month, we announced that Movive, the company's neurorehabilitation system to support gait rehabilitation and motor function in adults with Parkinson's disease, has been listed as a Class II, Rx-only medical device with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. We know firsthand the power of early exposure to science to ignite a lifelong passion that can ultimately lead to breakthrough innovations.

Maine Discovery Museum (MDM) plays a vital role in this ecosystem. Its programs—especially the Maine Science Festival, the Maine Invention Convention, and Science Around ME—are helping to cultivate the next generation of scientists, engineers, and problem solvers. These programs provide hands-on, engaging opportunities for students across the state, many of whom live in rural or underserved areas and would not otherwise have access to high-quality STEM education.

The challenges we face as a society will be solved by those we are educating today. Programs like those offered by MDM allow young Mainers to envision themselves in those future problem-solving roles.

L.D. 281 addresses a real and urgent need: providing foundational funding to ensure these vital programs can continue and expand. Without support, the reach and impact of MDM's programming will be diminished. With it, these programs can thrive and help ensure Maine remains a place where scientific discovery and learning are accessible to all.

I urge you to join us in supporting L.D. 281 and helping to build a stronger, more science-literate, and innovative Maine.

Sincerely,

Brian Harris Chief Executive Officer MedRhythms, Inc.