



TESTIMONY OF THE MAINE HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

In Support Of

LD 898 - *An Act Regarding Overtime Protections for Certain Maine Workers*

April 12, 2025

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder and members of the Labor and Housing Committee, my name is Jeffrey Austin and I am with the Maine Hospital Association. I am offering this testimony in support of LD 898.

The Maine Hospital Association (MHA) represents 33 community-governed hospitals including 30 non-profit general acute care hospitals, 2 private psychiatric hospitals, and 1 acute rehabilitation hospital. In addition to acute-care hospital facilities, we also represent home health agencies, skilled nursing facilities, nursing facilities, residential care facilities, and physician practices.

We want to add our testimony to that of MaineHealth in support of the legislation.

In speaking with other statewide associations of businesses, it seems as if this legislation will have minimal impact beyond hospitals. There are simply not that many industries that have a single employer with employees in very geographically different locations and with salaries that have the potential for meaningful variation.

Yet, in those instances where the ability to differentiate matters, it can matter a lot. It can determine whether a community has local access to physicians or not. Medicare itself recognizes geographic variation in wages.

We appreciate that Maine has an equal pay law and robust enforcement of it. However, its application should be tested against reasonable exceptions that serve a legitimate business purpose. We believe the case has been made for an exception here.

Thank you for accepting these comments.