

Mayor and Council Offices

Mark Dion

Mayor

April 25, 2025



Testimony of Mayor of the City of Portland, Mark Dion

Before

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

In Support of

**LD 1018, An Act to Protect Health Care for Rural and Underserved Areas by Prohibiting
Discrimination by Participants in a Federal Drug Discount Program**

April 25, 2025

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services. Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony on this important bill.

The City of Portland writes in strong support of LD 1018. The City of Portland operates several free clinics that are a vital component of our community's health. 340B is a critical component of supporting us in doing so. As a covered entity, we utilize 340B to "stretch scarce federal resources as far as possible" to reach eligible patients with critical services, such as HIV/Hep C, and other STD testing and treatment. We operate 340B in full compliance with the law and utilize the savings to reinvest in scaling our services. With this bill, Maine can join other states in protecting safety-net providers such as the Portland Public Health clinics to ensure that our communities continue to receive the care they need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Dion".

Mark Dion

Mayor

City of Portland, Maine