

**State of Maine | 132nd Legislature
Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
Testimony of Hannah Hudson on behalf of Maine Primary Care Association
April 28, 2025**

**Neither For Nor Against:
LD 1703, "Resolve, to Establish the Adverse Childhood Experiences Screening and Resiliency
Assessment Pilot Project"
Sponsored by Representative Gramlich**

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, I am Hannah Hudson, Director of Policy, at Maine Primary Care Association (MPCA).

MPCA is a membership organization that represents Maine's Community Health Centers (CHCs), also known as Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). Maine's CHCs make up the largest independent primary care network in the state, providing high quality and accessible primary and preventive medical, behavioral, and dental health services for over 200,000 people (1 in 6 Mainers) at more than 100 service delivery sites in all 16 Maine counties.

We would like to thank Representative Gramlich for bringing this important legislation forward. We are testifying neither for nor against as we are still gathering input from our membership across the state. Many of Maine's CHCs provide primary care services, including behavioral health and dental care, within a school setting. School-based health centers help increase access to health care, contribute to positive educational outcomes, reduce emergency room use, lower Medicaid costs, and expand access to critical services.

The creation of a pilot project to administer screenings for adverse childhood experiences and resiliency assessments in school-based health centers within public schools has the potential to increase our understanding of the needs of young people in our state and ensure that they are connected with necessary resources. This is directly in line with the mission of community health centers to increase access to care and reduce barriers by responding directly to patient needs.

We would encourage the committee to consider appropriate funding (stipend, incentive, etc.) to ensure that participating school-based health centers are able to participate and ensure that appropriate follow-up supports can be delivered to students who complete the screenings and assessments. Our organization would also be in support of an amendment to have the pilot project focus on Cumberland, Penobscot, and Washington counties.

On behalf of Maine's Community Health Centers, thank you for considering our comments. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly at hudson@mepca.org with any follow-up questions.

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