

Testimony in support of LD 1688: An Act to Encourage Continuing Education on Infection-Associated Chronic Conditions for Physicians and Nurses

To: Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson and honorable members of the Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services Committee

From: Adrienne Horne

April 30, 2025

Dear Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson and honorable members of the Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services Committee,

My name is Adrienne Horne, I live in Appleton, Maine, and I am writing to testify in favor of LD 1688: An Act to Encourage Continuing Education on Infection-Associated Chronic Conditions for Physicians and Nurses.

I contracted COVID-19 in early March of 2020, and since then I have had multiple chronic health conditions come up that I have needed to navigate medical systems in Maine to treat. I have sought treatment from my primary care provider and been referred to multiple specialists. In all cases, no medical doctors, physician assistants, or nurses have been able to identify what infection-associated chronic conditions I have. I spent years with painful symptoms, sometimes having to miss work and family milestones. I am lucky that I am now finally receiving some treatment that has provided relief for my symptoms, and my treatment is not comprehensive because 5 years later I still don't have a diagnosis. Without the correct diagnosis, I may be receiving insufficient or incorrect care and my condition may worsen again or new symptoms could flare up. There is a lack of knowledge around infection-associated chronic conditions due to lack of education in medical school that impacts the quality of treatment of these conditions and ends up impacting quality of life for individuals and our communities as well.

LD 1688 will amend existing law which requires those practicing medicine in the state of Maine to complete 100 hours of educational programming to renew their medical licenses. These changes will provide more accurate examples of chronic conditions and encourage educational programming related to infection-associated chronic conditions, which can be challenging to diagnose and effectively treat. Not only would this help me with my condition, it would also help many of my neighbors who live in an area with one of the highest concentrations of chronic Lyme disease, as well as any of my neighbors who need to use the healthcare system and have trouble getting appointments because of the strain on the limited providers available in the area.

Please vote in favor of LD 1688 to promote improved healthcare for chronic conditions in Maine. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Adrienne Horne

Adrienne Horne
Appleton
LD 1688

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