



**Maine Medical
Association**



**TESTIMONY OF THE MAINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
AND
THE MAINE OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION**

Neither For Nor Against

LD 1688 - An Act to Encourage Continuing Education Relating to Certain Infection-associated Chronic Conditions for Physicians and Nurses

Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services
Room 220, Cross Building, Augusta, Maine
Tuesday, April 29th, 2025

Good Afternoon, Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services. My name is Anne Sedlack, and I am the Director of Advocacy at the Maine Medical Association. I am submitting this testimony neither for nor against LD 1688 - "An Act to Encourage Continuing Education Relating to Certain Infection-associated Chronic Conditions for Physicians and Nurses on behalf of the Maine Medical Association and Maine Osteopathic Association.

The Maine Medical Association (MMA) is a professional organization representing more than 4,000 physicians, residents, and medical students in Maine. MMA's mission is to support Maine physicians, advance the quality of medicine in Maine, and promote the health of all Maine people. The Maine Osteopathic Association (MOA) is a professional organization representing more than 1,200 osteopathic physicians, residents, and medical students in Maine whose mission is to serve the Osteopathic profession of the State of Maine through a coordinated effort of professional education, advocacy, and member services in order to ensure the availability of quality osteopathic health care to the people of this State.

The MMA and MOA's legislative committees have joined to advocate on this issue. We appreciate the sponsor's willingness to amend LD 1688 to become a Resolution. Although it might seem like a small change since the current language of LD 1688 encourages rather than mandates, it feels like a significant change to our members. Enshrining in statute a specific preference for certain continuing medical education topics feels like an overreach to our members.

However, our committee all agreed that this was an important topic and that the Boards should receive a message from the Legislature about raising awareness for it with the licensees. We think this would augment our own work on these issues; for example, at the 2024 Maine Medical Association's annual conference, Infectious Disease physician Daniel

Griffin, MD, PhD, presented the keynote presentation entitled, Long COVID: An Evidence-Based Discussion.

As you heard today, the symptoms from infection-associated chronic conditions like long COVID, chronic Lyme disease, myalgic encephalomyelitis, postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome, and dysautonomia can be debilitating for the patient. It can affect anyone and can turn their life upside down. It is essential for clinicians who treat these patients, like primary care physicians, to stay current on the education and resources for their patients afflicted by these conditions.

If amended, we would be happy to continue our work on these topics and support the Board as it works to develop these educational opportunities. Thank you for considering the thoughts of Maine's physicians and public health community about LD 1688. Once again, we urge you to amend the bill.

Thank you,

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