



**Testimony of Maine Public Health Association in Support of:  
LD 1738: An Act to Establish the Biohazard Waste Disposal Grant Program to Support Public Health  
Efforts in the State**

Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services  
Room 209, Cross Building  
Monday, April 28, 2025

Good afternoon, Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. My name is Rebecca Boulos. I am a resident of South Portland and executive director of Maine Public Health Association.

MPHA is the state's oldest, largest, and most diverse association for public health professionals. We represent more than 850 individuals and 70 organizational members across the state, and our mission is to advance the health of all people and places in Maine.

MPHA is in support of LD 1738: "An Act to Establish the Biohazard Waste Disposal Grant Program to Support Public Health Efforts in the State." This bill would establish a Biohazard Waste Disposal Grant Program, which would disseminate grant funds to community organizations seeking to develop or enhance community hypodermic apparatus mitigation and disposal efforts; and would be overseen by the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention. MPHA supports both the intentions and potential outcomes of this bill.

Discarded syringes threaten the health of ecosystems, including humans, animals, and the environment. Identifying strategies to help prevent and reduce syringe waste is a public health priority. The City of South Portland Board of Health prepared educational materials for how to safely discard syringes, and what to do and who to contact if you see one (these materials can be adapted for other communities; you can see the materials [here](#)). Signage with that information is posted across the city and shared in city communications, including the newsletter and on social media. Portland is offering a [new needle buyback program](#), which shows promising results.

The proposed grant program in LD 1738 is one more option available to communities to help reduce syringe waste and protect public health and safety. We believe this bill has potential to improve public health, and we are in support. We respectfully request you to vote LD 1738 "Ought to Pass." Thank you for your consideration.