

Janet T. Mills  
Governor

Sara Gagné-Holmes  
Commissioner



Maine Department of Health and Human Services  
Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention  
11 State House Station  
286 Water Street  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011  
Tel; (207) 287-8016; Fax (207) 287-2887  
TTY: Dial 711 (Maine Relay)

May 2, 2025

Senator Henry Ingwersen, Chair  
Representative Michele Meyer, Chair  
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

Re: LD 1677 – *An Act to Establish the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Prevention and Support Program*

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information in opposition to LD 1677, *An Act to Establish the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Prevention and Support Program*.

The intent of LD 1677 is to statutorily establish an Alzheimer's and Related Dementias Program within the Maine CDC. The bill specifies the direction and scope of the Alzheimer's program, and directs Maine CDC to administer the program in consultation with the Department's Office of Aging and Disability Services (OADS). Additionally, Maine CDC would be responsible for developing and facilitating the Healthy Brain Initiative Council proposed in this legislation.

The Maine CDC recognizes and appreciates how crucial his work is. Through existing work, we know that more than 29,000 Mainers are currently living with Alzheimer's disease, a number projected to increase by about 21% to over 35,000 by 2030. In 2020, Medicaid costs for caring for people with Alzheimer's in Maine totaled \$212 million. These costs are projected to rise by nearly 30% by 2025. There are preventative actions that can be taken to reduce the impact of Alzheimer's and related dementias, and Maine CDC plays a crucial role in improving care, reducing costs, and promoting brain health through coordinated policies and initiatives and working with local, state, and national partners.

Currently, the Chronic Disease Program within the Division of Disease Prevention includes eight programs: Asthma, Alzheimer's, Cardiovascular Disease, Diabetes, Breast and Cervical Health, Colorectal Cancer, Comprehensive Cancer, and Obesity Prevention. The Alzheimer's program is one that is federally funded and is overseen by a contracted position using those funds.

There is significant uncertainty at the federal level around the future of federal funding like that for the BOLD grant. Should this bill be enacted, state funding would be necessary to ensure that the state could meet the obligations. This would require a state-line position that, like the majority of Maine CDC chronic disease programs, is a Health Program Manager. This comes with an estimated

cost of \$122,308. Given funding constrictions and existing work, the Maine CDC is opposed to this legislation, but remains committed to the existing and ongoing work around Alzheimer's Disease.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions during your deliberation of this bill.

Sincerely,



Puthiery Va

Director

Maine Center for Disease Control

Maine Department of Health and Human Services