



Testimony in Support of LD 587 (“An Act to Require Cardiac Emergency Response Plans and Athletic Emergency Action Plans for Schools and School-sponsored Athletic Events”)

Wayne Lamarre on behalf of the Maine Athletics Trainers’ Association

May 6, 2025

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy and members of the Joint Select Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, my name is John Ryan, athletic trainer at South Portland High School and member of the Governmental Affairs Committee of the Maine Athletic Trainers’ Association (MATA). The MATA is a professional association representing the over 300 licensed athletic trainers employed in settings such as high schools, colleges/universities, hospitals, clinics, and in the workforce.

Central to our education and training is the prevention, acute management, and rehabilitation of injuries and illnesses that commonly affect athletes and the physically active. In many cases, athletic trainers are the first health care providers to respond to cardiac emergencies in Maine schools. In fact, three of our members helped to save the life of a spectator during a championship football game in Kennebunk last fall. Their success was the direct result of a well-formulated and well-executed emergency action plan.

We support **LD 587** because it requires school officials to create and maintain updated, evidence-based cardiac emergency action plans that address both in-school and school-sponsored events. Although we recognize that not all schools are able to benefit from the presence of an athletic trainer at all events, we are hopeful that LD 587 will help to create a culture of preparedness that will directly result in saved lives.

For these reasons, we support **LD 587** and respectfully urge you to vote Ought to Pass. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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