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Commissioner



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5/12/2025

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

Re: LD 1945 – *An Act to Clarify Data Collection Processes in Health Care Facilities*

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 1945, *An Act to Clarify Data Collection Processes in Health Care Facilities*.

This bill provides that health care facilities may collect sexual orientation and gender identity data only from individuals aged 18 or older, and only at the time other demographic information is gathered. It also removes existing language that specifies which data must be collected.

Passage of this bill eliminates certain health record data collection, creating misalignment with national data standards established under the federal Uniform Data System in 2016.

The data being removed from statute has been collected in alignment with national standards since 2016 and is typically gathered alongside other patient health information during routine intake.

Passage of the bill would create discrepancies between state and national health databases, hindering the ability of public health departments to collect and analyze data critical to understanding disease impacts and treatment disparities.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Montejó", is written over the printed name.

Bill Montejó
Director
Division of Licensing and Certification
Maine Department of Health and Human Services