



Testimony of the Division of Licensing and Certification  
Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

In support of LD 1578, *An Act to Require the Department of Health and Human Services to Review Disruption to or Removal of Health Services*

Sponsor: Representative Dodge  
Hearing Date: May 7, 2025

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services, my name is Bill Montejo, and I serve as the Director of the Division of Licensing and Certification (DLC) in the Maine Department of Health and Human Services. I am here today to testify in support of LD 1578, *An Act to Require the Department of Health and Human Services to Review Disruption to or Removal of Health Services*.

This bill provides an exclusion to the 3-year limitation for conducting a subsequent review of an approved certificate of need project. It allows for a subsequent review to ensure the maintenance of health services after a circumstance described under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 331, subsection 1 has occurred or when a change not described under that provision has occurred that constitutes a significant disruption to or removal of a health service as determined by the Commissioner of Health and Human Services.

The Department supports this bill and would incorporate its provisions into the Certificate of Need program within the Division of Licensing and Certification. The passage of this bill would authorize the Department to review a health care facility's plan when a service closure is proposed. This bill could serve as a method to support and protect Mainers from the loss of access to needed healthcare services.

Hospital service closures—especially in rural areas—are becoming more frequent, driven by a combination of financial strain, workforce shortages, and shifting demographics. In Maine, for example, a number of hospitals have scaled back or eliminated birthing services in response to declining birth rates and an increasingly older population.

Thank you for your time and attention. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have and to make myself available for questions at the work session.