

**Testimony in support of LD 1646 to the  
Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety**

January 6, 2026

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus and distinguished members of the Committee:

My name is Sarah Johnson and I am a resident of Sanford.

I am writing in support of LD 1626, An Act to Amend Maine's Good Samaritan Laws Regarding Suspected Drug-related Overdoses.

LD 1646 both clarifies and expands the scope of immunity from arrest and prosecution for people who call for help when someone is experiencing a drug-related overdose or showing symptoms of one.

Good Samaritan protections reduce fear and increase trust of law enforcement professionals.

A 2024 University of Wisconsin health review notes that individuals knowledgeable about these laws are ***significantly more likely to contact emergency services*** during overdose events. This translates into faster emergency service response, prevents fatalities and long-term health consequences and supports overall public health.

Maine's Good Samaritan law is fundamentally about valuing human life and community health over punitive responses. LD 1646 builds upon existing protections in a thoughtful, safe and evidence-informed way. I respectfully ask the Committee to vote "Ought To Pass" on LD 1646.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sarah Johnson

<https://www.networkforphl.org/news-insights/effective-equity-focused-overdose-good-samaritan-laws-maine-leads-the-way/>

<https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/strategies-and-solutions/what-works-for-health/strategies/good-samaritan-drug-overdose-laws>