



Testimony of Jessica Fay for
**The Maine Council on Aging to the
Committee on Health and Human Services**

January 7, 2026

In Support of LD 1658

An Act to Preserve and Strengthen the Fund for a Healthy Maine

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

My name is Jessica Fay and I am the Policy and Advocacy Director for the Maine Council on Aging (MCOA). The MCOA is a broad, multidisciplinary network of over 140 organizations, businesses, municipalities, and older community members working to ensure we can all live healthy, engaged, and secure lives with choices and opportunities as we age at home and in our communities.

I am testifying in support of **LD 1658 “An Act to Preserve and Strengthen the Fund for a Healthy Maine”**.

Assuring the solvency of the Fund for Healthy Maine is critical for the health and well-being of many Maine people. The fund was created using tobacco settlement money and the mechanism proposed by Rep. Graham in LD 1658 makes sense given the purpose of both FHM and of the approved uses of the settlement funds.

The Fund for a Healthy Maine is an important source of funding for Maine’s Low-Cost Drugs for the Elderly and Disabled (also known as “DEL”), The allocation of \$6 million per year allows many low-income older Mainers (age 62 and older) to afford their prescription medications. For eligible people, DEL will pay the cost of 80% of certain prescriptions after a small co-pay and in some cases can also help cover the cost of Medicare Part D co-payment.

Given the increases in the cost of many prescriptions and the changes in availability of Medicare plans, DEL can be a lifeline for those who might need to choose between affording their medication and other necessities. We support the efforts to make the Fund for a Healthy Maine solvent for the future so that this benefit remains intact.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments in support of LD 1658.