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## **Testimony in SUPPORT of LD 1772, An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission to Design a Plan for Sustained Investment in Preventing Disease and Improving the Health of Maine Communities**

### **Health and Human Services Committee**

**January 7, 2026**

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

My name is Madeleine DesFosses, and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the Maine Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. The Maine AAP is a professional organization of 300 pediatricians and pediatric subspecialists dedicated to protecting the health of Maine children and adolescents. We are in support of LD 1772, which seeks to create the Maine Commission on Public Health and Prevention to support the Legislature with evidence-based health policies, and create a Fund for a Healthy Maine Stabilization Account.

At a time when public health resources are dwindling, LD 1772 represents a critical investment in public health expertise, ensuring that the Legislature has access to timely, accurate, and relevant information when considering public health policy. The bill establishes the Commission on Public Health and Prevention, which would provide essential functions such as public health data analysis, needs assessments, and evidence-based policy and funding recommendations. These services are vital to informing sound policy decisions that directly affect the health of Maine communities.

LD 1772 also establishes the Fund for a Healthy Maine Stabilization Account, which would not only support the work of the Commission on Public Health and Prevention, but also provide resources to the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention to develop a state health plan. This plan would offer a comprehensive, data-driven assessment of current and emerging public health risks and opportunities, helping Maine better prioritize prevention strategies and long-term investments.

Additionally, the Stabilization Account would reduce the Fund for a Healthy Maine's reliance on working capital advances from the General Fund, stabilizing the FHM and ensuring its long-term sustainability and effectiveness.

Ultimately, LD 1772 strengthens Maine's public health infrastructure and enhances our capacity to respond proactively to public health challenges and opportunities – both now and in the future.

We urge you to vote 'Ought to Pass' on LD 1772.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Madeleine DesFosses

Advocacy and Public Health Manager

Maine AAP

