



**Testimony of Maine Public Health Association in Support of:
LD 1772: An Act to Support Public Health and Establish the Maine Commission on Public Health and Prevention**

Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
Room 209, Cross Building
Wednesday, January 7, 2026

Good afternoon, Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. My name is Rebecca Boulos, and I am the executive director of Maine Public Health Association. MPHA is in support of LD 1772: “An Act to Support Public Health and Establish the Maine Commission on Public Health and Prevention,” as amended.

MPHA is the state’s oldest, largest, and most diverse association for public health professionals. We represent nearly 950 individual and 80 organizational members across the state, and our mission is to advance the health of all people and places in Maine.

MPHA has been a longstanding partner in strengthening Maine’s public health infrastructure, working with Maine CDC and other stakeholders on these efforts. We co-convened the State Public Health System Assessment in 2020/2021 and our Public Health Infrastructure Member Section [published a website](#) about Maine’s governmental public health system.¹ We regularly support legislation that seeks to bolster Maine’s public health system through funding, policy and programming.

MPHA is in strong support of LD 1772. The bill establishes the Maine Commission on Public Health and Prevention, which is a 13-member body that will assist and advise the Legislature on evidence-based public health policies. The bill also establishes the Fund for a Healthy Maine Stabilization Account, which will 1) fund the work of the Commission; 2) support the Maine CDC in developing and promoting a state health plan; and 3) work toward eliminating the need for a working capital advance that FHM programs are currently dependent upon. The Stabilization Account will be funded by a portion of dispute payments received as part of the Master Settlement Agreement.

While this committee is responsible for many public health and healthcare policy decisions, most other legislative committees also make decisions about public health policies, including Appropriations and Financial Affairs, Veterans and Legal Affairs, Labor and Housing, Environment and Natural Resources, Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services, and Judiciary. Like your committee, the issues in front of those other committees are wide-reaching. The Commission on Public Health and Prevention would be able to assist and advise legislators on evidence-based public health policies, data, and other queries.

The bill would also provide funding to the Maine CDC to support the development, publication, and promotion of a comprehensive state health plan. Last year, MPHA hosted a Master of Public Health student intern who inventoried the various state plans that relate to health. She identified more than 30 plans and spent time reviewing them and collating shared policy recommendations and metrics. Funding to support the development of Maine CDC’s State Health Plan could include a greater, more robust cross-reference of these other plans, including shared metrics and success on outcomes. This investment could lead to more efficient use of state resources and better health outcomes in Maine’s communities.

Our hope with this legislation is that the legislature can use the Commission as a resource and that our public health planning efforts can be even stronger than they are now.

On behalf of the State's largest association for public health professionals, I respectfully request you to vote LD 1772 "Ought to Pass." Thank you for your time. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have and will be available for the work session.

¹ See our website here: <https://www.mainepublichealth.org> (Public Health System Storymap is under "Publications")