



**Maine Medical
Association**



**TESTIMONY OF THE MAINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
AND
THE MAINE OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION**

In Support Of

LD 1932

An Act to Support Essential Support Workers and Enhance Workforce Development

Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
Room 209, Cross Building, Augusta, Maine
Tuesday, January 20, 2026

Good Morning, Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. My name is Anne Sedlack, and I am the Director of Advocacy at the Maine Medical Association. I am submitting this testimony in support of LD 1932, An Act to Support Essential Support Workers and Enhance Workforce Development, and the proposed amendment, on behalf of the Maine Medical Association and Maine Osteopathic Association.

The Maine Medical Association (MMA) is a professional organization representing over 4,300 allopathic and osteopathic physicians, residents, and medical students in Maine. MMA's mission is to support Maine physicians, advance the quality of medicine in Maine, and promote the health of all Maine people. The Maine Osteopathic Association (MOA) is a professional organization representing more than 1,200 osteopathic physicians, residents, and medical students in Maine whose mission is to serve the Osteopathic profession of the State of Maine through a coordinated effort of professional education, advocacy, and member services in order to ensure the availability of quality osteopathic health care to the people of this State.

The MMA and MOA's legislative committees have joined to advocate with one voice. We have all determined we should testify in support of LD 1932.

Physicians across the state see every day how deeply patient care depends on a stable and supported essential care and support workforce. Direct care workers are critical partners in helping patients recover after hospitalization, manage chronic illness, and remain safely in their homes and communities. When this workforce is underpaid or understaffed, the consequences show up in physician offices, hospitals, and emergency departments as

delayed discharges, unmet care needs, caregiver burnout, and preventable health crises. By stabilizing reimbursement rates and establishing a wage floor tied to the cost of living, LD 1932 takes a meaningful step toward ensuring continuity of care for Maine patients and strengthening the health care system as a whole.

Physicians also support LD 1932 because it anticipates Maine's growing and aging population with a data-driven approach. The bill invests in consistent training and smarter use of technology to identify and close care gaps, thereby supporting better care coordination and patient outcomes. At a time when workforce shortages are leaving tens of thousands of hours of home care unmet each week, this legislation helps prevent patients from being pushed into higher-cost settings simply because adequate support is unavailable

Thank you for considering the thoughts of Maine's physicians, and we hope you support LD 1932.

Thank you,

Anne Sedlack, Esq., M.S.W.

Director of Advocacy

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