



CARING FOR THE WHOLE COMMUNITY

State of Maine | 132nd Legislature

**Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance, and
Financial Services Testimony of Ann Tucker on behalf of Greater
Portland Health
January 26, 2026**

Supporting:

LD 2151, "An Act to Improve Access to Affordable Prescription

Drugs in Underserved Areas" Sponsored by Senator Reny

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services, I am Ann Tucker, CEO of Greater Portland Health. Greater Portland Health is one of Maine's 20 community health centers (CHCs), also known as Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), and part of the largest independent primary care network in the state.

Greater Portland Health (GPH), a non-profit, Federally Qualified Health Center founded in 2009, is committed to offering everyone in our communities high-quality, affordable, accessible, and contributes to a healthier community. GPH cares for over 17,000 community members across 17 locations in Portland, South Portland, and Westbrook in our state's most diverse neighborhoods. Our range of care includes primary care, maternal health, mental health, substance use, recuperative care, optometry, and oral health.

We strongly support LD 2151 and thank Senator Reny and the cosponsors for bringing legislation forward that will provide much needed support for FQHCs to improve access and expand pharmacy services in Maine.

Mainers are facing a critical shortage of access to affordable medications, especially in rural and underserved areas served by Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). Throughout the state, FQHCs are seeing a dramatic decline in the number of retail pharmacies, and a reduction of hours for those still in operation, due to ongoing workforce and economic challenges. FQHCs want to be able to provide pharmacy services to the communities that they serve, yet existing health center revenues and resources are insufficient to support such development or expansion of current services.

LD 2151 would establish a grant program, overseen by the Department of Health and Human Services, to provide support for FQHCs to develop or expand their capacity to provide greater access to affordably priced drugs for their patients by increasing FQHCs' ability to deliver pharmacy services

to those patients.

Our patients face a myriad of obstacles each day including picking up prescriptions due to pharmacy hours, transportation, being under or uninsured and the high cost of drugs.

On behalf of Greater Portland Health, thank you for considering our comments. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly at atucker@greaterportlandhealth.org with any follow up questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ann Tucker".

Ann Tucker, CEO