



## **Maine Chiefs of Police Association**

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### **Statement in support of**

### **L.D. 2105, An Act to Update Maine's Mandated Reporting Laws**

### **Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services**

**January 27, 2026**

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and honorable members of the Health and Human Services Committee. My name is Scott Stewart. I am the Chief of the Brunswick Police Department, and the president of the Maine Chiefs of Police Association. I am providing testimony on behalf of the Association in support of LD 2105.

The Maine Chiefs of Police Association's mission is straightforward: to strengthen the working relationships among Maine's police leaders, to promote professionalism and consistent standards across the state, and to support the men and women who serve our communities every day. At the heart of that mission is a shared commitment to protecting life and property and upholding the values of our profession.

This bill strengthens several areas where law enforcement and child protective services intersect. They address real gaps we encounter every day.

One of the most important provisions is the requirement that DHHS notify the appropriate district attorney when abuse is committed by someone who is not responsible for the child. In these cases, we are dealing with clear criminal conduct. Early notification ensures that prosecutors and investigators can begin gathering evidence immediately. When that communication is delayed, cases weaken, offenders disappear, and children remain at risk. LD 2105 closes that gap.

Another critical improvement is the requirement that medical institutions and other mandated reporters share with law enforcement the same information they have already

provided to the department. Too often, officers arrive at a hospital or facility only to be told that information cannot be shared without additional approvals or paperwork. Meanwhile, the child is waiting, and the clock is ticking. This bill removes unnecessary barriers and ensures that investigators can act on accurate, timely information.

The bill also reinforces the importance of documenting visible injuries through photographs. In child abuse cases, physical evidence fades quickly. A bruise that is obvious today may be gone tomorrow. Photographs taken promptly and professionally preserve the truth and allow us to build cases that stand up in court. It helps ensure that the child's experience is captured before it disappears.

Finally, the mandated reporter training requirement is essential. Law enforcement officers routinely encounter situations where the signs of abuse are subtle or easily overlooked. Regular training ensures that those who are required to make a report are equipped to recognize those signs and understand their obligations. Consistency in training leads to consistency in protection.

LD 2105 strengthens communication, improves evidence collection, and ensures that law enforcement can act quickly and effectively when a child is in danger. These are practical, necessary steps that will make a measurable difference in child safety across our state.

On behalf of the Maine Chiefs of Police Association, we urge the committee to support LD 2105.