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## Testimony in Support of LD 2154

“An Act to Establish the Health Information Technology Fund to Support a State-designated Statewide Health Information Exchange (HIE)”

Submitted to: Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

Hearing Date: February 4, 2026

Good morning, Chairs Senator Ingwersen and Representative Meyer, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services.

My name is Dr. David J. Koffman. I serve as the Vice President of Medical Affairs at St. Joseph Hospital, I am a practicing internist, and I also have the privilege of serving as a Board Member of HealthInfoNet, Maine’s state-designated statewide Health Information Exchange.

Please accept this written testimony in strong support of LD 2154, “An Act to Establish the Health Information Technology Fund to Support a State-designated Statewide Health Information Exchange (HIE).” This legislation would establish the Health Information Technology Fund within the Department of Health and Human Services to support the operation and sustainability of Maine’s statewide HIE and to meet the State’s matching requirements to draw down available federal funds.

HealthInfoNet is essential infrastructure for patient care in Maine.

At St. Joseph Hospital, HealthInfoNet is not a “nice to have.” It is core clinical infrastructure that our physicians, advanced practice clinicians, nurses, and care managers rely on every day to deliver safe, coordinated, efficient care—especially for patients who receive care across multiple settings.

In routine clinical practice, HealthInfoNet supports:

- Emergency and inpatient care: rapid access to outside records (recent hospitalizations, imaging, labs, problem lists), improving decision-making when time matters.
- Medication safety: more complete medication reconciliation, reducing adverse events and duplication.
- Transitions of care: better coordination across hospital, primary care, specialists, behavioral health, home health, skilled nursing, and community services—especially important for complex patients.
- Care management and population health: enabling care managers to close gaps, manage chronic disease, and prevent avoidable admissions and readmissions.

Maine’s statewide HIE functions as a “single patient record” that connects data across unaffiliated providers—exactly what clinicians need to coordinate care and improve outcomes.

The bill’s purpose is straightforward and pragmatic.

LD 2154 creates a dedicated fund to support the statewide HIE and to meet the State's matching requirement so Maine can draw down federal support for HIE operations.

The bill includes an ongoing appropriation of \$1.8 million annually beginning in FY 2026–27.

This approach matters because the federal funding available for HIE sustainability requires a state match, and LD 2154 creates a stable mechanism to meet that match and sustain the statewide exchange over the long term.

Maine's healthcare delivery system is operating under extraordinary financial strain. At the same time, expectations for quality, safety, and value-based care continue to rise. A functional statewide HIE is one of the few tools that simultaneously improves clinical care and reduces avoidable cost—by cutting duplication, reducing delays, and supporting safer transitions.

Without a sustainable path forward, the cost burden shifts back onto the provider community in the form of higher participation fees, creating the risk that financially stretched organizations—especially smaller practices and “last-mile” providers—delay joining, reduce usage, or disengage. That would fragment the statewide record, weaken care coordination, and directly undermine patient safety.

By contrast, LD 2154 supports a resource used statewide by thousands of clinicians and from the perspective of a hospital physician leader and practicing clinician, this is exactly the kind of targeted, high-leverage investment that supports frontline care.

On behalf of St. Joseph Hospital and the patients we serve—many of whom receive care across multiple organizations and settings—I respectfully urge the Committee to support LD 2154 and establish this fund to secure the long-term sustainability of Maine's statewide Health Information Exchange.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to the health of the people of Maine.

Sincerely,



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