

February 2, 2026



**Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services:**

Community Care Partnership of Maine (CCPM) is pleased to support L.D. 2154, “An Act to Establish the Health Information Technology Fund to Support a State-designated Statewide Health Information Exchange (HIE).” CCPM is a clinically integrated network of 22 not-for-profit healthcare organizations across the state, including 17 federally qualified health centers and 5 community hospitals, and our members work collaboratively to advance population health in Maine—particularly in rural and underserved communities.

In furtherance of its mission to improve the health and well-being of communities across Maine, CCPM supports local care teams in delivering high-quality, cost-effective, coordinated care. A secure and interoperable statewide Health Information Exchange is essential to that work. In rural Maine, where patients often travel long distances for care and receive services across multiple systems, an HIE is critical infrastructure that supports safer, more efficient, and more coordinated care.

As a condition of CCPM membership, we require participating organizations to connect to and use HealthInfoNet (HIN) bidirectionally, so information can both be accessed by care teams and contributed back to support continuity of care across settings. This expectation helps ensure that rural providers can reliably receive timely clinical information and that patient records are more complete statewide.

We also support our members in using HIN effectively in day-to-day care management. CCPM routinely accesses HIN data and provides staff and care teams with daily, weekly, and monthly reports and actionable lists that help them prioritize outreach—such as patients who are currently admitted, recently discharged, or seen in the emergency department; patients with multiple recent ED visits; and patients flagged as higher risk for readmission based on recent utilization patterns and diagnoses. These reports help care teams focus scarce workforce resources on the patients most likely to benefit from timely follow-up, medication reconciliation, appointment scheduling, and connection to community supports.

A statewide HIE allows providers to access key clinical information in one place, including medication lists, lab and imaging results, diagnoses, discharge summaries, and emergency department visit information. This improves care coordination and patient safety, especially for older adults with complex conditions, people with substance use disorders, and veterans who receive care in both VA and non-VA settings. When rural providers can see recent hospitalizations, medication changes, and test results in real time, they can avoid duplicative testing, reduce preventable readmissions, and manage chronic disease closer to home.

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Beyond individual patient care, CCPM uses HIN data to gain insights and analytics across our member network—particularly around potentially avoidable emergency department utilization. By examining patterns such as frequent ED use, repeat visits for ambulatory-care-sensitive conditions, and variations by geography or clinic service area, CCPM and our members can identify where targeted resourcing and interventions will have the greatest impact. These insights directly inform outreach and education efforts for patients, care management workflows, after-hours access strategies, and partnership decisions with EMS and community-based organizations.

Maine has already demonstrated leadership through its state-designated statewide HIE, including broad participation from rural providers and bi-directional connectivity with VA facilities. These connections also support public health reporting and emerging “community information exchange” efforts that better link clinical care with social services. However, maintaining and expanding this statewide capability requires predictable, long-term funding—particularly as earlier federal HITECH-era funding has ended and as cybersecurity and resilience needs continue to grow.

L.D. 2154 is a critical step toward long-term sustainability by establishing a Health Information Technology Fund to support Maine’s state-designated statewide HIE. This investment would help sustain core HIE services that rural organizations depend on; strengthen cybersecurity and technical resilience that small facilities cannot afford to build alone; and expand connections to essential partners in the rural care continuum.

With stable funding in place, the statewide HIE can continue to support safe, efficient, coordinated care across Maine—particularly for rural communities that cannot afford fragmented information systems or uneven access to essential clinical data.

CCPM respectfully urges the Committee to support L.D. 2154.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandy Nesin, Esq.  
Chief Executive Officer  
Community Care Partnership of Maine

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Sandy Nesin  
Bangor  
LD 2154

Please see attached document for written testimony on behalf of Community Care Partnership of Maine.