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AARP Maine Testimony in support of LD 2146 An Act to Increase Access to Critical Vaccinations

Greetings Chairs Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson and Members of the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services. My name is Bridget Quinn, I am an Associate State Director of Advocacy and Outreach with AARP Maine. AARP is the nation's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering people 50 and older to choose how they live as they age. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of LD 2146 today.

At AARP we support policy on vaccines that;

- direct sufficient financial and technological resources toward the timely development and manufacture of safe, effective, and affordable vaccines
- provide funding to ensure that key public- and private-sector health care personnel are adequately prepared to respond to public health crises relevant to their areas of practice.
- adopt policies that ensure that vaccines have appropriate clinical evidence of safety and efficacy, are allocated equitably, and are widely available.

This is reflected in LD 2146 which will increase access to safe and effective vaccines by enforcing that the Maine Vaccine Board considers vaccines recommended by Northeast Public Health Collaborative. LD 2146 also takes steps to secure funding to cover the cost for vaccines.

AARP believes that people should be able to choose to get safe, effective vaccines that are proven to protect their health. We support state actions to make these vaccines available for those who want them and to make sure they are covered by health insurance, such as is described in LD 2146. For this reason we urge the committee to support LD 2146.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. If you have questions for me I can be reached at bquinn@aarp.org or at 207-272-8563.

Bridget Quinn
AARP Maine

