

State of Maine | 132nd Legislature
Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services
Testimony of Megan Stewart on behalf of Maine Primary Care Association
February 10, 2026

Supporting:
LD 2146 “An Act to Increase Access to Critical Vaccinations”
Sponsored by Senator Daughtry

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services, I am Megan Stewart, Director of Government Relations at Maine Primary Care Association (MPCA).

MPCA is a membership organization that represents Maine’s Community Health Centers (CHCs), also known as Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). Maine's CHCs make up the largest independent primary care network in the state, providing high quality and accessible primary and preventive medical, behavioral, and dental health services for over 200,000 people (1 in 6 Mainers) at more than 100 service delivery sites in all 16 Maine counties.

We would like to thank President Daughtry and the co-sponsors for bringing this important legislation forward. Vaccinations are an essential public health tool that trains the immune system to recognize and fight common and transmissible illnesses, such as influenza and COVID. Vaccination leads to a greater chance of positive health outcomes in the event of infection or can keep an individual from being infected at all.

LD 2146 strengthens patients’ ability to access vaccinations that are crucial not only to their own health, but to public health. It allows an individual to access vaccines based on the advice of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as access to recommendations made by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians, or the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists or a successor organization. Historically, federal agencies and health associations have agreed on vaccine access and recommendations. LD 2146 fills in the gap when they do not align and allows individuals to make their own decision based on evidence-based recommendations from the federal agency or health association. For these reasons, MPCA is in support of LD 2146.

On behalf of Maine’s Community Health Centers, thank you for considering our comments. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly at mstewart@mepca.org with any follow-up questions.

Megan Stewart, JD
Director of Government Relations
Maine Primary Care Association
mstewart@mepca.org