

February 17, 2026

Good afternoon, Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and members of the Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services Committee.

My name is Dorothy O'Keefe. I am a nurse practitioner and a member of the Maine Nurse Practitioner Associating (MNPA) writing in favor of LD 2071, **An Act to Expand Access to Vaccines Approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration by Allowing Pharmacists to Prescribe, Dispense and Administer Vaccines and Require Insurance Coverage.**

LD2071, as amended, increases access to vaccines through licensed pharmacists to prescribe, and dispense or administer FDA approved vaccines. This includes insurance billing including MaineCare and private carriers without added copays, deductibles, or other cost-sharing. This removes financial barriers to access vaccines.

Vaccines remain the best practice to protect the public health from harm caused by preventable communicable diseases. Access to vaccines by pharmacists in underserved rural area can prevent outbreaks with seriously adverse outcomes.

I work in a community health clinic, federally funded, serving a rural population. We were allocated a smaller number of influenza vaccines and zero Covid vaccines to administer this past season. Having the ability to send patients to the pharmacist at no cost to the patient for these vaccines is necessary for population health benefits.

Thank you for reading my testimony. I ask for your vote ought to pass on LD20171.

Sincerely,

Dorothy O'Keefe, AGNP-C
Legislative Committee co-chair, MNPA