

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 2146 An Act to Increase Access to Critical Vaccinations.**

Vaccines remain the best tool we have for ensuring public health. Vaccines reduce transmission of communicable diseases especially in the very young, very old, and immunocompromised. They can reduce the severity of targeted infections and decrease the burden on health care systems.

LD 2146 provides a requirement to consider vaccines recommended by and available through the Northeast Public Health Collaborative or its successor organization when making decision regarding annual vaccines which must be made available. This bill is necessary to reduce barriers and provide access to vaccines recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians, and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Additionally, this bill allows the Maine Vaccine Board to request state funding for these vaccines.

Thank you for considering my testimony and I ask for you support in voting ought to pass on LD 2146, An Act to Increase Access to Critical Vaccinations.

Sincerely,

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