



February 17, 2026

**Testimony to the 132nd Maine Legislature
Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services**

Greetings, Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and honorable members of the Committee. My name is Josh Steirman and I am Director of Government Relations with the Maine Bankers Association. We are testifying Neither For Nor Against L.D. 2129, *An Act to Prohibit Liens on Principal Residences and Wage Garnishments for Medical Debt*.

The Maine Bankers Association is the trade association representing 34 retail banks across Maine, with over 9,000 employees in virtually every community state-wide. Last year, our banks provided over \$2.5 billion in residential real estate loans, and over \$3.2 billion in small business loans. Maine bankers are your neighbors, working to provide a safe place for deposits, modern technology solutions, fraud protection, a home mortgage, or a small business loan.

Banks in Maine are generally not engaged in lending that is directly related to healthcare purposes, but we are closely attuned to statutes governing liens and mortgage lending. Any bill regarding medical debt should closely define what obligations are considered to be medical debt, and ensure that comingled debt taken for potentially indeterminate purposes are not included in medical debt regulations. We are satisfied that the definition of medical debt as cited in Maine Statutes Title 32, section 11002, subsection 7-A is appropriate and adequately addresses these concerns. We urge the committee to remain with this definition if any bill is moved forward.

Thank you for your consideration. We urge the committee to use the most precise and targeted language possible to achieve its policy aims in L.D. 2129. We would be happy to answer any additional questions at the work session.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joshua Steirman
Director of Government Relations