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## **Testimony in SUPPORT of LD 2208, An Act to Offset Federal Cuts to Health Insurance for Certain Maine Families and Seniors**

### **Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services February 26, 2026**

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and Honorable Members of the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services,

My name is Madeleine DesFosses, and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the Maine Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. The Maine AAP is a professional organization of 300 pediatricians and pediatric subspecialists dedicated to protecting the health of Maine children and adolescents. We are in support of LD 2208, which seeks to mitigate the impacts of H.R. 1 on Maine families and their access to healthcare.

Mainers are experiencing the impacts of H.R. 1 in many ways, including their ability to access affordable health care. H.R. 1 slashed Medicaid funding and changed the eligibility requirements, resulting in many Mainers losing their coverage, and as a result, hospitals and clinics are taking on the increased costs of uncompensated services. Additionally, for Mainers who rely on marketplace coverage, the elimination of the enhanced premium tax credits has caused insurance premiums to skyrocket, making coverage financially impossible for many. As a result, many Mainers who previously purchased insurance through the marketplace are now forced to go without coverage. This means that many Mainers will either avoid seeking medical care putting their health and safety at risk, enter into medical debt to receive care, or in some cases, healthcare providers will have to absorb the costs without reimbursement.

These changes not only place the health of Mainers in a precarious, vulnerable position, but also put healthcare providers under tremendous financial pressure that threatens the sustainability of hospitals and facilities, especially those in rural areas. Therefore, access to care is not only at risk for Medicaid patients and the uninsured, but for all Mainers who live in communities where providers may already be limited.

LD 2208 takes steps to address these threats, supporting patients and providers through a multi-pronged approach. First, this bill creates a Rural Hospital Stabilization Program to cover the costs of services that are at risk of being reduced or eliminated entirely at rural hospitals and facilities. This ensures that services, including inpatient, outpatient, primary, and behavioral health care remain open and accessible despite the impacts of H.R. 1. Second, this bill establishes the Health Care Stabilization Fund to ensure patients who receive coverage through the marketplace, Medicaid, or other federal programs maintain coverage if the Affordable Care Act is repealed or administered in a way that diminishes access to care. This is an essential step in protecting the health and safety of Mainers, by shoring up access to affordable healthcare. Lastly, 2208 established the MaineCare

Federal Response Fund, which allows the state to provide supplemental funding in the case of federal funding cuts. This ensures that patients are able to access care, and providers are compensated for the care they provide.

LD 2208 importantly responds to the impacts of H.R. 1, and seeks to proactively protect against future federal healthcare-related cuts and repeals that have the potential to significantly impact patients and providers in Maine. **We urge this committee to vote ‘Ought to Pass’ on LD 2208.**

Thank you.

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Maine AAP