

**Testimony of the University of New England for the
Joint Standing Committee on Health & Human Services
LD 2196 An Act to Lower Health Insurance Costs, Reduce Barriers to
Health Care and Ensure Fair Prices for Health Care**

March 5, 2026

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services,

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The University of New England is submitting testimony in opposition to LD 2196 due to concerns regarding the adverse effect on ongoing efforts to grow Maine's healthcare workforce that we anticipate as a result of this legislation. We appreciate Representative Gattine's efforts to reduce healthcare costs for Maine consumers. However, we understand that Maine's hospitals believe this bill would result in devastating revenue losses that would hurt Maine's healthcare delivery system. The Maine Hospital Association estimates the impact of LD 2196 would be a **\$1 billion reduction in year one** from the price cap, a **\$50 million reduction in year one** from the growth cap, and a **\$250 million reduction within four years** from the growth cap. Maine's healthcare delivery system is already fragile and this would be an unprecedented reduction in hospital revenue that would further destabilize the system.

The University of New England is Maine's leading institution in educating students in healthcare professions. We are committed to growing Maine's healthcare workforce. In order to do that, we partner with Maine health systems and community hospitals to train students in clinical settings, which is a critical part of their education.

We have heard from our hospital partners that passage of LD 2196 would greatly impact their medical education programs, including clinical training opportunities for physicians, nurses, and other students. Due to significant losses in revenue, it is possible, perhaps likely, that they would no longer be able to support clinical rotations and their graduate medical education (residencies) program would be in serious jeopardy.

Maine is facing a serious shortage of healthcare professionals, including physicians, nurses, and allied health professionals practicing in rural and underserved areas. We should be doing everything we can to collectively and collaboratively address this healthcare workforce crisis. Passage of LD 2196 would hamper those efforts, leading to far greater workforce shortages and further devastation to Maine's healthcare delivery system in the years to come.

For these reasons, we urge you to reject LD 2196.

Sincerely,



James Herbert
President, University of New England