

State of Maine | 131st Legislature
Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Testimony of
Hannah A. Hudson on behalf of Maine Primary Care Association
March 21, 2023

Supporting:
LD 940, "An Act to Allow Pharmacists to Provide Services Through Telehealth and Vending
Machines at Federally Qualified Health Centers"

Sponsored by Representative Perry

Senator Bailey, Representative Perry, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services, I am Hannah Hudson, Policy and Communications Manager at Maine Primary Care Association (MPCA).

MPCA is a membership organization that includes all of Maine's 20 Community Health Centers (CHCs), also known as Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). Maine's CHCs make up the largest independent primary care network in the state, providing high quality and equitable primary and preventive medical, behavioral, and dental health services for over 200,000 people (1 in 6 Mainers) at more than 70 service delivery sites in all 16 Maine counties.

MPCA supports this legislation because providing access to pharmacy services and affordable medications is a key component in Community Health Centers' comprehensive care model. We thank Representative Perry for bringing this bill forward.

As workforce challenges continue to impact health centers across our state, this bill would help address issues related to recruitment and retention as well. Hiring and maintaining onsite pharmacists in our more rural locations is an increasingly difficult task as the number of local pharmacy locations and their operating hours shrink. Providing for more ways to deliver pharmacy services to patients through telehealth and automated dispensing, at times relying on a pharmacist working at an out-of-state location, will greatly alleviate some of these pressures.

We are continuing to work with the Administration and the Maine Pharmacy Board to understand what specific legislative changes are needed to achieve this goal. We appreciate their continued engagement, and we will work with Representative Perry to provide updated bill language for your consideration in advance of the work session.

On behalf of Maine's Community Health Centers, thank you for considering our comments. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly at hhudson@mepca.org with any follow up questions.

Hannah A. Hudson, MA
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