

**State of Maine  
131st Legislature  
Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services  
Testimony of Charles F. Dingman on behalf of the Maine Primary Care Association  
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**

**March 21, 2023**

Senator Bailey, Representative Perry, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services, I am Charlie Dingman, a lawyer with the firm of Kozak & Gayer, and I am submitting this brief testimony today on behalf of the Maine Primary Care Association (MPCA).

I refer you to the testimony of Hannah Hudson, MPCA's Policy and Communications Manager, for the substance of MPCA's support for Representative Perry's initiative to improve access to pharmacy services at community health centers in rural Maine. My purpose in adding my own testimony is to note for the Committee the present status of a collaborative effort to refine the bill in its current form to avoid duplicating what is already provided in Maine pharmacy statutes and rules, while filling any gaps that may impede innovative solutions to the problem of inadequate access to pharmacy services.

MPCA is grateful to Deputy Commissioner Joan Cohen of the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation and to the staff and counsel for the Board of Pharmacy, who met with MPCA representatives last week to discuss what is possible under current law and what changes might be appropriate to address any remaining obstacles to delivering as much access to pharmacy services as possible at community health centers. As a result of that meeting, the CHCs that initially worked with Representative Perry on the ideas reflected in this bill are giving careful thought to what may or may not be needed in terms of legislative changes. Based on that analysis, we expect to consult further with the Department and Board staff and with Representative Perry, and we are optimistic that a consensus will emerge from these conversations.

In any event, I will plan to be available at your work session on this bill to report on those efforts and to offer any technical comments or assistance that you may find helpful.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important health care access issue. I would be pleased to respond to questions via the contact information provided below or at your work session.

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