



**TESTIMONY OF THE MAINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION  
AND  
THE MAINE OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION  
IN SUPPORT OF**

**LD 2268, An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Commission Regarding Foreign-trained Physicians Living in Maine to Establish a Sponsorship Program for International Medical Graduates**

Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services  
Room 220, Cross Building, Augusta, Maine  
Tuesday, March 18, 2024

Good morning, Senator Bailey, Representative Perry, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services. My name is James Jarvis, MD, FAAFP, and I am the Board Chair of the Maine Medical Association. I am submitting this testimony in support of LD 2268, An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Commission Regarding Foreign-trained Physicians Living in Maine to Establish a Sponsorship Program for International Medical Graduates.

The Maine Medical Association (MMA) is a professional organization representing more than 4,000 physicians, residents, and medical students in Maine. MMA's mission is to support Maine physicians, advance the quality of medicine in Maine, and promote the health of all Maine people. The Maine Osteopathic Association (MOA) is a professional organization representing more than 1,200 osteopathic physicians, residents, and medical students in Maine whose mission is to serve the Osteopathic profession of the State of Maine through a coordinated effort of professional education, advocacy, and member services in order to ensure the availability of quality osteopathic health care to the people of this State.

This year MMA and MOA's legislative committees have joined together to advocate with one voice. We all have determined that it is important to testify in support of LD 2268 with an amendment.

I would like to highlight just how happy I was to serve on this commission as MMA's representative. While the Commissioners were diverse in background and expertise, very quickly we agreed that quality care of the people of Maine was paramount to any recommendations. With that at the forefront of our discussions, a very well thought out plan of recommendations developed that can assist the physicians living in Maine who currently have a limited pathway to licensure. Many of these physicians needed to leave

their homeland, not by choice, but rather due to political and social situations at home. We believe the recommendations by the Commission, serve to make entry into practice possible, but still uphold core principles of assuring competency by appropriate assessment of knowledge skills.

I also want to note that, in deciding how to best provide Maine with quality care, one of the most important parts of medical training for a physician is that the training is rigorous. Rigorous training helps both the physician learner and patient. The learner, in return for their hard work and dedication, gains experience and develops confidence in their abilities. Further, it upholds core principles of assuring competency through an appropriate assessment of knowledge. The patient, in turn, receives better healthcare options provided by confident and skilled physicians.

LD 2268 provides the mechanism for this alternative medical training to be sufficiently rigorous as these skills are reviewed under clinical competency standards, supported by trained faculty supervision, as well as made accessible to those physicians who want to further hone their skills toward licensure. We believe that LD 2268 accomplishes the task of being sufficiently rigorous and could help alleviate some of the struggles that Maine faces regarding healthcare availability.

Finally, to ensure practicality and feasibility, we request that there be an amendment to the bill to provide a clearing house for applications rather than having applicants apply directly to institutions. We would be happy to work with this committee on that language.

Thank you for considering the thoughts of Maine's physician and public health communities about LD 2268. We urge you to support this bill. I would be happy to respond to any questions you may have.

Thank you,

James W. Jarvis, MD, FAAFP  
Board Chair of the Maine Medical Association