



Testimony in Opposition to LD-67, "An Act to Establish Minimum Standards for Certain Urgent Care Facilities" (2-5-2025)

Good morning Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and respective members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, my name is Tim C. Walton, I reside in the Town of Livermore and I am testifying today on behalf of ConvenientMD in opposition to this bill.

ConvenientMD is a leading walk-in and virtual urgent care provider dedicated to delivering the best medical care and experience for patients throughout Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts. At ConvenientMD, patients with non-life-threatening illnesses and injuries can be seen virtually or just walk into one of its 49 urgent and primary care locations.

Although we are opposing this legislation, we could have potentially adverted this position and instead provided our comments and concerns as being "neither for nor against", which we would have preferred, if the language was more detailed. That said, aside from the definitions of what facilities are captured and those that are exempted. an implementation date and a licensing fee structure, the lack of details in its language present us with no other option but to oppose it.

In our opinion, the vague nature of this legislation could essentially be viewed as an expanded concept draft. Thus, leaving us with a number of concerns, or at the very least questions about the bill's intent and the process the State will follow to achieve its stated goals. For example:

- Why are certain providers of urgent care exempted? If the goal is to truly ensure the highest quality of care is delivered to those who seek urgent care services, wouldn't the State want to make sure that level of care is being adhered to by all urgent care providers throughout the state.

- As the Department is going through its process of establishing these standards, will there be an opportunity for input from the impacted urgent care community? Will there be any public meetings and/or hearings? Nothing in the bill would suggest that. We have to believe as important an issue as healthcare is to the citizens of Maine that the legislature would want to ensure this is part of the Department's process when establishing these standards.
- Once the Department has finalized the standards, will they have to be presented to this committee and then the full legislature for their consideration and approval prior to being implemented?

At ConvenientMD our mission has and always will be, to provide the highest quality healthcare and to make good health more convenient for all – working to improve how patients and providers experience healthcare in New England. ConvenientMD employs a team of dedicated professionals who genuinely care about good health, are passionate about serving the communities we operate in, and driven to make the healthcare system work better for everyone. That said, ConvenientMD always stands ready to provide our input and perspective and offer our expertise to our policy makers and governing agencies to ensure sound public policy prevails.

We appreciate your consideration of our position on this matter.