



**Testimony of Trevor Putnoky
to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services**

In Support of

**LD 93, An Act to Reduce Cost and Increase Access to Disease Prevention by Expanding the Universal
Childhood Immunization Program to Include Adults**

February 5, 2025

Good afternoon, Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services.

My name is Trevor Putnoky and I'm the President and CEO of the Healthcare Purchaser Alliance of Maine. The HPA is a nonprofit that represents the purchasers of health care in Maine. Our mission is to advance and support access to high-quality, affordable care. We have over 60 members, including some of the largest public and private employers and health trusts in Maine. Collectively, our members spend over a billion dollars annually providing health care for nearly one quarter of the commercially insured population in the state.

I'm here today to testify in support of LD 93. The Maine Vaccine Board's childhood vaccine program currently saves public and commercial payers in Maine millions of dollars by purchasing vaccines in bulk at discounted federal contract rates that are passed through to those payers. We understand from the bill sponsor that extending the program to include adult vaccines would allow commercially insured health plans to leverage that bulk purchasing power to procure vaccines for adults at lower prices as well. In fact, other states that have implemented similar legislation have typically seen savings of 20 percent for adult vaccines.¹

Maine employers and employees are struggling to afford the cost of providing healthcare coverage to their employees and families, with premiums continuing to increase at a significantly higher rate than wages and inflation. Medication costs are a significant—and growing—part of those high premiums. As employers work to keep the cost of healthcare coverage affordable for their organizations and their employees, we are grateful for Rep. Zager to put forward a proposal that is designed to lower the cost of essential and cost-effective vaccines.

Thank you for the opportunity to share the HPA's feedback on LD 93. I'd be happy to answer any questions and will be available for the work session.

¹ KidsVax