



**Maine Medical
Association**



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

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**

Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
Room 209, Cross Building, Augusta, Maine
Wednesday, February 5, 2025

Good afternoon, Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. My name is Austin Vaughan, and I am a medical student at the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine. I am submitting this testimony 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, on behalf of the Maine Medical Association and the Maine Osteopathic Association.

The Maine Medical Association (MMA) is a professional organization representing over 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.

The MMA and MOA's legislative committees have joined to advocate with one voice. We have all determined that testifying in support of LD 93.

Increased vaccination rates are vital to statewide health, and the Maine Universal Childhood Immunization Program has contributed to increasing vaccination rates among our state's youth. The program improves public health and allows all children, regardless of socioeconomic status, to receive vaccines that they might not otherwise receive if not for

the program. Expanding the program to include adults ages 19-64 would benefit public health similarly, remove barriers to patient care, and ensure equitable and voluntary access to necessary, preventative health care.

There is data to suggest that this step toward increasing access and coverage for adults might not only increase our state's health but also help save the state money. A 2021 cost-benefit analysis study of the United States estimated that over a 30-year period, expanding adult vaccine coverage would reduce the number of disease cases by 33 million and result in a net savings of 13 billion dollars.¹

We want to stress that this bill does nothing to expand vaccination mandates. It simply incorporates adults into the Universal Immunization Program, which is a cost-effective way to provide vaccinations for the community. We also appreciate that it allows for clinician choice, which is important in ensuring public trust in vaccinations.

Thank you for considering the thoughts of Maine's physicians, and we hope you support LD 93.

Thank you,

Austin Vaughan

¹Carrico J, Talbird SE, La EM, et al. Cost-benefit analysis of vaccination against four preventable diseases in older adults: Impact of an aging population. *Vaccine*. 2021;39(36):5187-5197. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vaccine.2021.07.029>.