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American Academy of Pediatrics 
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™

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LD 210: An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2025, June 30, 2026 and June 30, 2027

Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services and Committee on Appropriation and Financial Affairs February 12, 2025

Good Morning, Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, Members of the Joint Standing Committee On Appropriations and Financial Affairs, Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. My name is Madeleine DesFosses, and I am testifying today on behalf of my organization, the Maine Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (Maine AAP). The Maine AAP is opposed to provision A-356 of the biennial budget, which proposes to change the financing methodology and reduce the rate of reimbursement for hospital-based providers.

The Maine AAP is a membership organization of nearly 300 pediatricians and subspecialists across the state dedicated to protecting and improving the health of Maine children and adolescents. Our members practice in a variety of healthcare settings in their communities, from small private practices to Federally Qualified Health Centers, to large hospitals. We are extremely concerned by how these proposed cuts will impact the most-vulnerable patients in our state, and the hospital-based providers who care for them. The Department of Health and Human Services has estimated these cuts will cost hospitals \$75 million dollars, which is unsustainable and will be detrimental to Maine's healthcare system and patients. Because a higher percentage of children are covered by Medicaid than adults, the impact on pediatric patients and providers will be particularly significant.

With a healthcare system that already greatly undervalues the importance of pediatric care, our hospitals, providers, and most importantly, our children, cannot afford these massive cuts. If these cuts are made, access to care for the most vulnerable children will be impacted greatly, and we could see hospital-based pediatric care become completely unsustainable in some communities. At this point in time, we need to be coming up with ways to address the gaps in healthcare access that are felt across our state, not exacerbate the crisis and devalue pediatric care even more.

We urge you to remove this portion from the budget and help to ensure that pediatric patients receive the care they need, no matter their socio-economic backgrounds. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Madeleine DesFosses
Advocacy and Public Health Manager, Maine AAP