



Maine Medical
Association



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

In Support Of

LD 689 An Act to Support the Northern New England Poison Center

Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
Room 209, Cross Building, Augusta, Maine
Wednesday, March 12, 2025

Good afternoon, Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. My name is Anne Sedlack, and I am the Director of Advocacy at the Maine Medical Association. I am submitting this testimony in support of LD 689, An Act to Support the Northern New England Poison Center.

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 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 we should testify in support of LD 689.

The Northern New England Poison Center is the regional poison center serving Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. Examples of calls it receives include care for young children who ingest candy but are cannabis edibles to everyone in the middle to older adults who have mishaps with medication confusion.

Clinical staff with special training, including obtaining a Certification for Specialists in Poison Information (CSPI), work together to provide emergency advice 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Poison Center staff manage most childhood poisonings at home by telephone, thereby reserving medical facilities for critically ill patients while saving healthcare dollars. When patients require ambulance or hospital care, the Poison Center ensures the best care is rapidly accessible and follows through during the case to assist with care. This is particularly important in a state whose rural hospitals do not have toxicology services.

Physicians throughout the State rely on this essential resource for assistance with care that often needs immediate intervention. Appropriate funding for the Center is necessary to ensure this vital service remains available.

Thank you for considering the thoughts of Maine's physicians, and we hope you support LD 689.

Thank you,

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