

Testimony of Sarah Calder, MaineHealth LD 765, "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Controlled Substances Prescription Monitoring Program" March 12, 2025

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, I am Sarah Calder, Senior Government Affairs Director at MaineHealth, and I am here to express concerns with LD 765, "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Controlled Substances Prescription Monitoring Program."

MaineHealth is an integrated non-profit health care system that provides a continuum of health care services to communities throughout Maine and New Hampshire. Every day, our over 24,000 care team members support our vision of "Working Together so Our Communities are the Healthiest in America" by providing a range of services from primary and specialty physician services to a continuum of behavioral health care services, community and tertiary hospital care, home health care, a lab, and retail and specialty pharmacy services.

My testimony today is limited to Section 3, Subsection 1, which changes the reporting requirements for pharmacists. While we understand the Department's desire to be nimble to changing recommendations by the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy, we would ask the Committee amend LD 765 and require major substantive rulemaking for any changes to reporting requirements under this section. Pharmacies need advanced notice and an opportunity to comment on reporting requirements that may require, as just one example, technology changes. Alternatively, we would also support leaving the current list of items in statute.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.