



**Testimony in Support of LD 110:  
An Act to Require Reporting on the Expenditure of Opioid Settlement Funds by Certain Municipalities and  
County Governments**

March 13, 2025

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and Honorable Members of the Committee on HHS,

My name is Tess Parks. I am the Policy Director of the Maine Recovery Action Project (ME-RAP), a grassroots network of Mainers working on community and public policy based solutions to substance use. I am also a member of the Maine Recovery Council as a representative of someone with lived experience of substance use disorder (SUD). I am here today to testify in favor of LD 110 on behalf of our statewide team of organizers.

It is important to remember why we have opioid settlement funds (OSF). Pharmaceutical companies put profits before the welfare of American people with widespread over prescribing of highly addictive opioids. Since 2013, we have lost 5,138 Mainers from fatal overdoses. Our communities, families, and neighbors have faced immeasurable social and economic losses throughout the opioid epidemic. To abate some of the wreckage of this crisis, the Maine Attorney General's office joined in multi-state lawsuits to secure OSF that will come in payments from pharmaceutical companies until 2038.

According to the Maine Attorney General's website, Maine's 39 subdivisions that were involved in the settlement lawsuits have received a little over 20.7 million dollars in OSF<sup>1</sup>. This website also states, "The best way to find out about what your community is doing with its settlement funds is to call your county administrators, or if your city or town is a participating subdivision call the city or town office"<sup>2</sup>. In other words, the burden to figure out how the sub-divisions are spending OSF is on the general public.

We respectfully request a friendly amendment to require the Attorney General to publicly release information on how the subdivisions are spending the funds once received. While we have no concerns about the current Attorney General, we believe it is important to establish a statutory requirement to ensure transparency for all future Attorneys General.

When members of the public have more information, they are in a better position to provide informed feedback on how the funding should be allocated. Particularly, individuals with lived experience are vital for shaping effective community responses to mitigating the harms of the opioid crisis.

We urge this committee to unanimously support LD 110. Our communities know the enormous costs that they have paid as a direct result of the opioid epidemic. We all deserve to know how mitigating funds are being allocated.

I thank you for your time and am willing to answer any questions.

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.maine.gov/ag/opioids/2023-opioid-settlements.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.maine.gov/ag/opioids/settlement-payments.html>

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