



March 24, 2025

Maine Joint State and Local Government Committee
Legislative Information Office
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury and members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government:

The members of the Maine Chapter of the American College of Surgeons ask for your **support for L.D. 774(H.P.497)**, which proposes installing bleeding control kits in state-owned buildings across Maine. As constituents and concerned members of our community, we believe ensuring the safety and well-being of the public is a top priority, and this bill represents a crucial step toward achieving that goal.

Accidental injury is one of the leading causes of death in Maine and remains the leading cause of death for people under the age of 44. Uncontrolled hemorrhage (bleeding) is a leading cause of trauma death prior to arrival at a hospital. It is estimated 30–40 percent of trauma mortality is due to hemorrhagic shock, and hemorrhage plays a role in 33–56 percent of trauma fatalities that occur in the prehospital setting.

In recent years, traffic, skiing, boating accidents, and tragic incidents of violence, such as the Lewiston shootings, highlight the urgent need for proactive measures to address emergency situations effectively. The installation of bleeding control kits in state-owned buildings is a practical and potentially life-saving initiative to mitigate the severity of injuries in critical moments.

Providing state-owned buildings with bleeding control kits with regular inspection and restocking of kits, this legislation demonstrates a comprehensive approach to enhancing emergency preparedness in a public setting. These measures not only empower the public to respond effectively to traumatic incidents but also provide reassurance to the broader community their safety is being prioritized.

Furthermore, the provision of immunity from civil liability for those individuals acting in good faith when using a bleeding control kit underscores the importance of encouraging swift and decisive action in emergency situations, without fear of legal repercussions. The American College of Surgeons provides free STOP THE BLEED® training through the STOP THE BLEED® program at stopthebleed.org.

Passing L.D. 774(H.P.497) presents a proactive and practical approach to enhancing public safety and emergency preparedness, and we urge you to support this important initiative.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bruce Chung, MD FACS
President, Maine Chapter
American College of Surgeons

Elizabeth Turner, MD FACS
State Chair, Committee on Trauma
American College of Surgeons

facs.org

CHICAGO HEADQUARTERS
633 N. Saint Clair Street
Chicago, IL 60611-3295
T 312-202-5000
F 312-202-5001
E-mail: postmaster@facs.org

WASHINGTON OFFICE
20 F Street, NW Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20001
T 202-337-2701
F 202-337-4271
E-mail: ahp@facs.org

Cc: Committee on State and Local Government
Kristin Bishop, Legislative Analyst, Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
Molly Sweet, Committee Clerk, Legislative Information Office
James Sargent, Fiscal Analyst, Office of Fiscal and Program Review