



Testimony in Opposition of LD 1024:
***An Act to Expand the List of Crimes That Do Not Qualify for Immunity Under Maine's Good Samaritan Laws
Concerning Drug-related Medical Assistance***

March 31, 2025

Hello, Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus and the honorable Criminal Justices and Public Safety Committee.

I am Jeanne Marquis, a staff member of the Maine Recovery Access Project. I urge you to vote NO on LD1024 an act to expand the list of Crimes that do not qualify for immunity Under Maine's Good Samaritan Law.

The law as it is in its current form works. For the last two years, I have been a part of a team who has trained Mainer's close to 4,000 people in this law and how to administer naloxone. We have seen first hand that as awareness of this law increases the overdose death rate has gone down. The Good Samaritan Law in its current form works as a proven life saving tool. If you add these crimes into these laws you will erode the public confidence and trust to call 911. We have already seen confusion and distrust just by the fact that this bill has been proposed.

The Government Accountability Office agrees, This office reviewed 17 studies from states who had enacted Good Samaritan Laws and found positive impacts from these laws in terms of reduced overdose deaths and increased responses to these medical crises.

<https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-21-248-highlights.pdf>

The groups like us who train people about Good Samaritan Law are wondering how we will communicate about your proposed law with the added crimes, if it passes. Do we tell people you are safe to call 911, except if someone there might have a tiny amount of substance that's over the very small amount that's considered personal use, then you could be arrested for trafficking for up to ten years in prison. How do we tell people they are safe to call 911?

The primary argument we are hearing from law enforcement to add in these crimes are they feel they do not have a law enforcement tool. If you need to turn a life saving tool into an entrapment



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tool, I seriously question not only your ethics, but your strategies as law enforcement professionals.

I urge you to VOTE NO on LD1024 to keep the Good Sam Law a vital life saving law.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanne Marquis

China, Maine