



**Testimony of Sarah Calder, MaineHealth
In Opposition to LD 1316, “An Act to Amend the Mandated Reporter Laws
Regarding Medical Records, Additional Information and Immunity”
April 9, 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 oppose LD 1316, “An Act to Amend the Mandated Reporter Laws Regarding Medical Records, Additional Information and Immunity.”

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 and a lab.

When MaineHealth mandated reporters make a report, they are not making an accusation but providing information to the experts so that they can determine if there is an issue requiring investigation and action. For example, if a pediatrician sees bruising on their patient that raises concerns, the pediatrician is not equipped to determine if there is abuse in the home but makes a report so that the experts – the Department of Health and Human Services – can conduct an investigation and make that determination.

Mandated reporters report to err on the side of keeping children and incapacitated adults safe. The significant changes in LD 1316 to the current immunity provisions, however, could lead mandated reporters to hesitate or not make a good faith report because of fear of criminal and civil liability.

Additionally, and very importantly, MaineHealth has an amendment process where a patient can add to their record, including their own statement to the record or a DHHS report that found the allegation of abuse or neglect was unfounded. The administrative burden imposed by LD 1316, however, could put our providers in the difficult position of being petitioned by guardians to amend or update the child or adult child’s medical record and then be required to send this additional information to DHHS.

LD 1316 runs counter to the recent direction in law and policy to strengthen the mandated reporting obligations and required regular mandated education on the obligation and erodes the current immunity provisions. It is for those reasons that MaineHealth is opposed to the legislation before you today, and we urge you to vote “Ought Not to Pass.”

Thank you for your time and consideration and I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have.