



**Maine Medical
Association**



**TESTIMONY OF THE MAINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
AND
THE MAINE OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION**

In Support Of

**LD 1583 An Act Regarding Home Health Care and Hospice Services Ordered by a
Health Care Provider Outside of Maine**

Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
Room 209, Cross Building, Augusta, Maine
Wednesday, April 23, 2025

Good afternoon, Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. My name is Montana Towers, I'm a third-year law student, and a legal extern at the Maine Medical Association. I am submitting this testimony in support of LD 1583, An Act Regarding Home Health Care and Hospice Services Ordered by a Health Care Provider Outside of Maine on behalf of the Maine Medical Association and the Maine Osteopathic Association.

The Maine Medical Association (MMA) is a professional organization representing over 4,000 physicians, residents, and medical students in Maine. MMA's mission is to support Maine physicians, advance the quality of medicine in Maine, and promote the health of all Maine people. The Maine Osteopathic Association (MOA) is a professional organization representing more than 1,200 osteopathic physicians, residents, and medical students in Maine whose mission is to serve the Osteopathic profession of the State of Maine through a coordinated effort of professional education, advocacy, and member services in order to ensure the availability of quality osteopathic health care to the people of this State.

The MMA and MOA's legislative committees have joined to advocate with one voice. We have all determined we should testify in support of LD 1583.

We are grateful to our partners for determining a fix to ensure that clinicians can provide necessary care to their patients and also ensuring they are not acting on orders that might expose them to legal or licensure risk. This bill addresses a challenge that comes up more often than you might expect, how can patients in Maine receive timely home health or hospice care when the ordering provider is located out of state. LD 1583 provides a

thoughtful solution that supports patients while still ensuring appropriate oversight and coordination.

Across the state, Maine patients routinely receive care from out-of-state providers, especially in border communities and through center-of-excellence programs for surgeries and specialty care. These are important and clinically sound provider-patient relationships.

However, what comes next after receiving this out-of-state care has increasingly become a concern. After receiving such care, many of these patients return home to Maine and require follow-up services, such as home health or hospice, which would be delivered by Maine-based providers. These services often rely on medical orders issued by the out-of-state providers. But, under current Maine law, unless that out-of-state provider is licensed here or holds a special registration for telemedicine, their orders may not be considered valid.

LD 1583 provides a practical and patient-centered solution. It allows Maine home health and hospice agencies to accept orders from licensed out-of-state providers, but with important safeguards. These safeguards include requiring that the provider must be actively licensed and in good standing in their home jurisdiction, they must have conducted an in-person physical examination in that jurisdiction, and if the patient has a Maine-based primary care provider, the out-of-state provider must make a good-faith effort to contact them in order to coordinate care.

These provisions ensure both access and accountability. They support timely and patient-centered care without undermining patient safety or Maine's regulatory oversight.

LD 1583 does not permit unregulated practice or undercut the role of Maine-licensed providers. Instead, it acknowledges the reality of contemporary healthcare and details clear, reasonable guardrails to ensure patients receive the care they need while keeping Maine providers out of legal trouble.

Thank you for considering the thoughts of Maine's physicians, and we hope you support LD 1583.

Thank you,

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