



STATE OF MAINE
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BOARD OF LICENSURE IN MEDICINE



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**TESTIMONY OF TIMOTHY TERRANOVA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
BOARD OF LICENSURE IN MEDICINE
DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL AND FINANCIAL REGULATION
L.D. 1688**

**An Act to Encourage Continuing Education Relating to Certain
Infection-associated Chronic Conditions for Physicians and Nurses
Presented by Representative Rana
Before the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services**

April 30, 2025

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and members of the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee, I am Tim Terranova, Executive Director of the Maine Board of Licensure in Medicine ("BOLIM"). I am here today to testify against LD 1688.

BOLIM licenses and regulates allopathic physicians and physician assistants in Maine. BOLIM is composed of 11 members: 6 physicians who actively practice medicine; 2 physician assistants who actively render medical services; and 3 public members. BOLIM's mission is to protect the public by ensuring its licensees are ethical, professional and competent. It fulfills this mission by licensing, regulating, and educating physicians and physician assistants.

BOLIM's primary mission is to protect the public health and welfare of Maine citizens by ensuring that those licensed to practice medicine or render medical services in Maine are honest and competent practitioners.

In general, BOLIM does not require continuing medical education ("CME") in any specific subject area. BOLIM relies upon the professionalism of its licensees to identify and complete CME relevant to their specific medical specialty and the specific patient population they treat. BOLIM believes there is a risk that requiring specific CME for all licensees may unnecessarily burden them with mandated education unrelated to their medical practice and may detract from their opportunity to enhance their actual practice during the limited hours they can dedicate to CME. Therefore, BOLIM generally does not support mandating specific CME topics across all clinical licensees.

When a public health need arises to widely, or in a targeted manner, disseminate time-sensitive medical information to the appropriate practitioners, BOLIM already works with the Maine CDC to help distribute specialty-specific information in three ways:

- Providing contact information of relevant specialist licensees when the Maine CDC has specialty-specific information it needs to share;

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- Issuing CDC alerts to all licensees when urgent issues might affect a large number of licensees; and
- Providing space in BOLIM's newsletter for CDC's general notifications.

BOLIM understands that this bill does not mandate or require CME, and instead simply directs the boards to encourage their licenses to find and take continuing education related to infection-associated chronic conditions. However, BOLIM has two areas of concern:

- The term "encourage" in the bill is vague and undefined, which could lead to different interpretations and confusion among licensees, particularly because this new CME provision refers back to the mandatory CME each licensee must complete for initial or renewed licensure.
- BOLIM suggests a bill is not necessary to achieve the goals of encouraging the boards to share information with licensees encouraging them to attend CME on this topic, nor to achieve a goal of more licensees being aware of and attending such a CME.

BOLIM recommends a solution that does not require this bill. BOLIM contracts with an entity to provide free online CME for its licensees (and any other types of licensees). Through its contract, BOLIM produces three CME courses per year. The courses cover current topics affecting the practice of medicine and delivery of health care in Maine. BOLIM is willing to create a CME course regarding this subject and promote it as a resource to any licensee, like it does with all CME courses it produces. A list of courses that are active or in development is attached.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments regarding LD 1688. I would be happy to answer questions now or at the work session.

Free BOLIM CME Courses – All Courses can be found at <https://qclearninglab.org/>

Active Courses

- Adolescent Substance Use and Screening - Briefly Intervening Saves Lives*
- Benzodiazepine Use and Opioid Use: A Deadly Combination*
- Chronic Pain Diagnosis, Management and Alternative Treatment*
- Chronic Pain, Opioids, and Suicide*
- Cultivating Resilience: Harnessing the Power of Positive Childhood Experiences
- Gender Identity and Respectfulness in the Medical Practice
- Improving SUD/OD in Hospital Settings and Starting MAT in the Emergency Department*
- Maine Prescribing Laws, Limits and Compassionate Tapering*
- Partnering with Community Health Workers to Strengthen Healthcare Teams
- PMP Features to Enhance Patient Safety*
- Promoting Mental Health and Improving Care for Veterans Experiencing Suicidality
- Social Determinants of Health, Intersectionality, and Implicit Bias: Addressing Substance Use Disorder*
- System Level Care: Taking Care of the Medical Professional's Behavioral Health and Wellness

* This course qualifies for the CME credit requirement for opioid medication education found in P.L. 2015, Chapter 488, Maine's legislation to address the opioid drug crisis, AND it qualifies for hours toward training on opioid or other substance use disorders and the appropriate treatment of pain required by the MATE Act.

Courses in Development (expected to be live by June 30, 2025)

- Reviving Resilience: Using Quality Improvement to Combat Burnout
- Creating a Culture of Wellness
- Stress Inoculation for Healthcare Professionals: Building Resilience in the Face of Adversity

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