

May 14, 2025

Good afternoon, Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and members of HCIFS. My name is Geoff Gratwick, I am a retired doctor from Bangor, former Legislator, and am here to speak in favor of LD 1269

## **Delivering and Financing Health Care in Maine - Crisis; politics**

### **1.) The pain of short-term vs long-term solutions**

#### **LD 985 – A 5 Year Moratorium on Private Equity Control of Hospitals**

- Short-term solution – Vote ONTP - Relatively little short-term pain because Private Equity will ease current problems. But... over time Maine will lose control of HC, costs will rise, and quality will decline. Hospital closures will continue
- Longer-term solution – Vote OTP - Pain will continue but Maine will have the time needed to plan for more efficient HC delivery and financing. There will still be the pain of hospital closures but they will be planned

#### **LD 1269 – A Study of the Costs of Universal Health Care in Maine**

- Short-term solution - Vote ONTP - Relatively little short-term pain. But... problems will persist
- Long-term solution - Vote OTP - Short-term pain because the Legislature will have to fund a study. But...this will allow for the development of a rational, affordable HC plan with less pain in 5-10 years.

### **2.) Money - possible sources:**

Appropriations Committee - long term vs stop-gap funding

Fund for Healthy Maine – 1998 Tobacco settlement money; \$52m/yr

Maine Municipal Bond Bank – Controlled by Legislature. Usually spends money on bricks and mortar. But... in 2013 Gov LePage sold state liquor contract for \$185m to pay Medicaid debt to hospitals

Atty General's Office

Foundations, Other

**Conclusion: We need a long-term plan.**