



**Maine Medical
Association**



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

In Support Of

LD 1658 An Act To Preserve And Strengthen The Fund For A Healthy Maine

Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
Room 209, Cross Building, Augusta, Maine
Wednesday, January 7, 2026

Good afternoon, Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. My name is Anne Sedlack, and I am the Director of Advocacy at the Maine Medical Association. I am submitting this testimony in support of LD 1658, An Act To Preserve And Strengthen The Fund For A Healthy Maine and the proposed amendment, on behalf of the Maine Medical Association and Maine Osteopathic Association.

The Maine Medical Association (MMA) is a professional organization representing over 4,300 allopathic and osteopathic 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 1658.

The Fund for a Healthy Maine (FHM) is one of Maine's most effective and enduring public health investments. For more than 25 years, it has translated tobacco settlement dollars into prevention-focused, youth-centered programs that strengthen communities and reduce avoidable illness. Its success reflects a clear understanding that prevention is both the most humane and the most cost-effective approach to health.

LD 1658 offers a straightforward, sustainable solution by making the 2025 General Fund transfer of tobacco excise tax revenue to the Fund for a Healthy Maine an ongoing commitment. The need for prevention does not fluctuate with political cycles, and neither should its funding. Passing LD 1658 will secure Maine's only dedicated source of prevention funding and protect a legacy of public health investment for generations to come.

Thank you for considering the thoughts of Maine's physicians, and we hope you support LD 1658.

Thank you,

Anne Sedlack, Esq., M.S.W.

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