



**Maine Medical
Association**



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

In Support Of

LD 1772 An Act To Implement The Recommendations Of The Blue Ribbon Commission To Design A Plan For Sustained Investment In Preventing Disease And Improving The Health Of Maine Communities

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 1772 An Act To Implement The Recommendations Of The Blue Ribbon Commission To Design A Plan For Sustained Investment In Preventing Disease And Improving The Health Of Maine Communities, 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 1772.

LD 1772 establishes the Maine Commission on Public Health and Prevention, a 13-member body charged with advising the Legislature on evidence-based public health and prevention policies. The bill also establishes a Fund for a Healthy Maine Stabilization Account that

would support the Commission's work, help the Maine CDC develop and promote a long-term state health plan, and reduce reliance on working capital advances that many Fund for a Healthy Maine programs currently rely on.

All of this adds capacity where it's badly needed. It provides lawmakers with consistent public health expertise, creates a space to connect the dots across departments and committees, and supports planning that extends beyond the two-year budget cycle. Over time, this kind of coordination can strengthen trust between legislators and prevention stakeholders, improve funding decisions, and better position Maine to respond to both emerging public health threats and new opportunities.

Finally, to ensure this works as intended, we recommend adding a position to ensure our Associations are included in the work. So, for example, "A person who represents a statewide association of physicians." Physicians see every day what happens when prevention falls short and understand how public health policy shows up in exam rooms, emergency departments, and communities across the state. We would be happy to work with the Legislature to ensure that a member meets the Commission's needs.

Thank you for considering the thoughts of Maine's physicians, and we hope you support LD 1772.

Thank you,

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