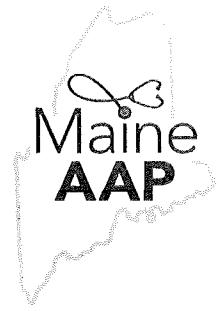


Maine Medical Association



TESTIMONY OF THE MAINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, THE MAINE OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION, AND THE MAINE CHAPTER, AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

In Support Of

LD 2154

An Act to Establish the Health Information Technology Fund to Support a State-designated Statewide Health Information Exchange

Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
Room 209, Cross Building, Augusta, Maine
Wednesday, February 4, 2026

Good Morning, 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 2154, An Act to Establish the Health Information Technology Fund to Support a State-designated Statewide Health Information Exchange, on behalf of the Maine Medical Association, Maine Osteopathic Association, and the Maine Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics.

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 Maine AAP is a professional organization of 300 pediatricians and pediatric subspecialists dedicated to protecting the health of Maine children and adolescents.

The MMA, MOA and Maine AAP's legislative committees have joined to advocate with one voice. We have all determined we should testify in support of LD 2154

LD 2154 supports one of Maine's most important shared health care infrastructure components. Since 2010, the Health Information Exchange has securely connected hospitals and healthcare clinicians across the state, allowing them to access critical medical

information in near-real-time. This shared system supports care coordination, improves patient safety, reduces unnecessary duplication of tests and administrative work, and strengthens public health reporting. Today, all Maine hospitals and the vast majority of providers participate, with thousands of clinicians relying on the HIE every day to deliver timely, informed care to patients in communities large and small.

I presented this bill to our legislative committee last week, and one member said he literally could not do his job without HealthInfoNet. The recommendation to support this bill was an easy yes.

Maine's healthcare community is facing intense financial pressure from workforce shortages, reimbursement challenges, and rising operating costs. Providers have collectively invested millions of dollars each year to sustain the HIE, even as they are forced to make difficult decisions to keep their doors open. LD 2154 offers a practical, cost-effective solution. By allowing the State to provide the required match to leverage federal funding from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Maine can significantly reduce the financial burden on providers while ensuring this essential statewide resource remains stable and available. This investment protects patient access to safe, high-quality care and demonstrates a smart use of state dollars to maximize federal support.

We recognize that anything with a fiscal note warrants extra scrutiny, but we believe it would be financially unwise to miss an opportunity for the federal match. By spending 1.8 million dollars per year, the State will be saving the provider community over 4 million dollars per year.

Thank you for considering the thoughts of Maine's physicians, and we hope you support LD 2154.

Thank you,

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