



Before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

February 4, 2026

In Support of LD2154 An Act to Establish the Health Information Technology Fund to Support a State-designated Statewide Health Information Exchange

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, my name is Melinda Kinney, and I am here today on behalf of Martin's Point Health Care in support of LD2154 An Act to Establish the Health Information Technology Fund to Support a State-designated Statewide Health Information Exchange.

Martin's Point is a not-for-profit organization serving our community's health care needs with the highest-quality care and coverage. As an organization providing both direct health care services and health insurance plans, we are uniquely positioned to fulfill our mission to create a healthier community through authentic relationships built on trust. Martin's Point offers Medicare Advantage plans and has five primary care centers in Maine and one in New Hampshire. We also offer a military health plan under the US Family Health Plan (USFHP) in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, upstate New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. USFHP is a TRICARE Prime program delivering health benefits to active-duty family members and retired military veterans.

The Health Information Exchange (HIE) is an important resource that supports Martin's Point's mission to deliver quality health care to our delivery system patients. HIE strengthens clinical data exchanges, advances interoperability between health care providers across the State and ensures providers have real-time access to the information they need to deliver coordinated timely care. At a time when healthcare organizations are under extraordinary financial pressure with rising healthcare expenses growing faster than the revenue coming in, it reinforces the importance for a sustainable and well-supported information network. Without it, the entire ecosystem risks fragmentation, gaps in clinical information, and more importantly diminished quality of care and safety for Maine patients.

Risks without a statewide HIE:

- Providers lack access to outside encounter data such as Emergency Department (ED) visits, hospital admissions, discharges, and specialty care.
- Delays in care due to incomplete clinical history at the point of care.
- Increased and/or duplicate testing when prior labs or imaging are unavailable.
- Higher administrative burdens on small and rural practices that lack resources for custom integrations.

These gaps directly impact patient safety, quality of care and overall cost of care - particularly for medically complex and rural populations across Maine. The value of HIE data for Martin's Point directly impacts our quality of care and compliance efforts. HIE data represents an important supplemental source of clinical information to support a variety of patients including:

- Collection of information pertaining to hospital admissions, discharges, and transitions of care.
- Identification of ED utilization outside of Martin's Point facilities.
- Support for population health and care navigator initiatives tied to preventive screenings, and follow-up visits after hospitalizations.

Access to timely encounter and clinical event data strengthens our ability to manage population health.

Martin's Point

In conclusion, HIE offers significant cost and administrative efficiency benefits to health care organizations and patients. Access to patient data reduces the need for manual medical record requests from hospitals and providers resulting in lower administrative costs for all providers, faster access to clinical information for various care teams, increased accuracy for patients who are often asked to repeat their medical history as well as decreased duplicative testing often associated with additional out of pocket costs for patients. Collectively, these efficiencies support both affordability and better care experience for Maine patients.

Please support LD2154, thank you.